

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Case No. 1:16CR265

Akron, Ohio

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

ERICK JAMAL HENDRICKS,

Defendant.

TRANSCRIPT OF TRIAL  
VOLUME 8, PAGES 1279 THROUGH 1492  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JOHN R. ADAMS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government: Matthew W. Shepherd  
Office of the U.S. Attorney - Cleveland  
Carl B. Stokes U.S. Courthouse  
801 Superior Avenue, West, Suite 400  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113  
(216) 622-3600

Mark S. Bennett  
Office of the U.S. Attorney - Akron  
2 South Main Street, Room 208  
Akron, Ohio 44308  
(330) 375-5716

Rebecca A. Magnone  
U.S. Department of Justice  
960 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
(202) 353-9472

For the Defendant: David L. Doughten  
Attorney at Law  
4403 St. Clair Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44103  
(216) 361-1112

1 Stephen D. Hartman  
2 Attorney at Law  
3 1st Floor  
4 320 North Michigan Street  
5 Toledo, Ohio 43604  
6 (419) 690-4604

7 Court Reporter: Caroline Mahnke, RMR, CRR, CRC  
8 Lori A. Callahan, RMR, CRR  
9 Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse  
10 2 South Main Street, Suite 568  
11 Akron, Ohio 44308  
12 (330) 252-6021

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25 Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography; transcript  
produced by computer-aided transcription.

1 (Tuesday, March 13, 2018.)

2 (Outside the presence of the jury.)

3 THE COURT: Counsel, would you have your witness  
4 step forward, please?

00:56:32 5 Are we ready to proceed this morning?

6 MR. BENNETT: We are, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Just have a seat, sir.

8 Ms. Kestner, the jurors, please.

9 (Jury in, 9:05 a.m.)

00:58:10 10 THE COURT: Sir, you're still under oath.

11 Counsel, you may resume your direct examination.

12 MR. BENNETT: Thank you very much, Your Honor.

13 (CONTIN.) DIRECT EXAMINATION OF HAMZA AL-ANSARI

14 BY MR. BENNETT:

00:58:28 15 Q. Mr. Al-Ansari, I'm sorry, sir. Since, we had the  
16 break, have you had an opportunity think about the date the  
17 meeting occurred with Mr. Hendricks?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What date was that?

00:58:36 20 A. The date was May 2, 2015.

21 Q. So the communications -- were prior to May 2 of 2015  
22 that we had seen on your screen shots?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Speaking of the screen shots, you testified yesterday  
00:58:53 25 regarding getting directions of where to go coming into

1 Baltimore from Mr. Hendricks.

2 Do you have those screen shots? Were you able to  
3 create them?

4 A. No, I do not.

00:59:04 5 Q. Why not?

6 A. Due to driving and how do you normally take those  
7 screen shots. Normally I use two mobile phones in order to  
8 take the screen shots. And so --

9 Q. And throughout this process, did you always have your  
00:59:22 10 two phones with you?

11 A. Yes, but not the morning of the trip. I just took one  
12 phone with me to the trip.

13 Q. We've also been listening to clips of the audios.

14 Have you had a chance to review the entire audio prior  
00:59:43 15 to your testimony here today?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 62?

18 (Recording played.)

19 BY MR. BENNETT:

01:00:07 20 Q. Stop it there.

21 Can you identify this portion of the recording?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What is this?

24 A. This is the same day of the Baltimore trip after I  
01:00:20 25 gave him the recording device.

1 Q. And throughout the remainder of Exhibit 62, have you  
2 had a chance to listen to it in its entirety?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So the recording itself, it's a true and accurate --

01:00:36 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- representation of the meeting you had with Mr.  
7 Hendricks prior to that meeting as well?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 62D?

01:00:49 10 This is where we left off yesterday.

11 And can we go to the very end of it.

12 Again, at the end there, there's some discussion of  
13 what?

14 A. The drawing contest of the Prophet Muhammad that was  
01:01:17 15 going to take place in Texas.

16 Q. Throughout the clips that we've been seeing here and  
17 listening to and the transcript itself, there's second that  
18 is are marked inaudible?

19 A. Yes.

01:01:35 20 Q. Was everything that was said between you and Mr.  
21 Hendricks captured on the recording?

22 A. No, it was not.

23 Q. Were other things discussed between you and Mr.  
24 Hendricks?

01:01:44 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Do you remember what other items were discussed  
2 between you and Mr. Hendricks?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What were those?

01:01:55 5 A. For example, we discussed a possible target for night  
6 raiding, and that target would consist of military  
7 recruitment centers.

8 Q. And did he give you any information about or talk to  
9 you about what the use of this land would be that he  
01:02:15 10 was -- wanted to acquire or had?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What was that?

13 A. So the main use of the land would be as a headquarters  
14 for the group.

01:02:26 15 Q. For what purpose?

16 A. And that would be used for training purposes.

17 Q. Okay. What kind of training?

18 A. Physical training, military training, weapons  
19 training.

01:02:35 20 Q. And were there discussion of any other targets with  
21 Mr. Hendricks?

22 A. No, but there was a list, a list that was published.  
23 And we also discussed that.

24 Q. Okay. What kind of list?

01:02:50 25 A. That list was a list of about ten or 12 military

1 personnel that had leaked. The list showed their physical  
2 addresses as well as their Email addresses.

3 Q. And military personnel from where?

4 A. They were from all over the United States.

01:03:12 5 Q. Was there any discussion about next steps, things that  
6 you would do together after this meeting?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What were those?

9 A. So the very next step after this meeting, I was told  
01:03:29 10 to -- I was told to research what you would call a voice  
11 changer. I was told to research and to find a voice changer  
12 which I could encrypt.

13 Q. And what was the purpose of that?

14 A. The purpose of the voice changer was to use that in a  
01:03:50 15 video, which we would film together, and then broadcast to  
16 the entire United States.

17 Q. So let's go back to the actual clips themselves.

18 Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 62E.

19 Can we just play it, please.

01:04:13 20 (Recording played.)

21 MR. HARTMAN: Your Honor, may we approach?

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 (Discussion at sidebar as follows:)

24 THE COURT: Take down the video, please.

01:05:09 25 MR. HARTMAN: Yes. Judge, my objection is we

1 literally can't hear anything in this audiotape and all they  
2 have is the transcript which I don't think is fair because  
3 that's not evidence.

4 THE COURT: I agree. The audio is not -- if you  
01:05:21 5 cannot hear the audios, then you're not going to be able to  
6 use the transcript.

7 MR. BENNETT: I mean yesterday the audio was much  
8 louder. We haven't changed anything. So can we have a  
9 moment to see if we can get it louder?

01:05:34 10 MR. HARTMAN: If you can get it louder, I'll  
11 withdraw the objection.

12 THE COURT: I'm not going to allow you to just  
13 show the transcript without being able to hear the audio.

14 MR. BENNETT: Okay.

01:05:45 15 (The following proceedings were had in the hearing of  
16 the Jury:)

17 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to  
18 try to address the -- to determine if there was some sort of  
19 technical problem with regard to the audio, of course, now  
01:05:57 20 we hear the echo.

21 But once, again, I want to reemphasize to you the  
22 evidence is not the transcript. It is the audio. So listen  
23 carefully to the audio. We're not going to play the  
24 transcript if we can't hear the audio. All right?

01:06:13 25 (Pause.)



1 THE COURT: Do you have other areas that you can  
2 cover outside of the audio?

3 MR. BENNETT: I do, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Then I think we will turn to those  
01:07:35 5 and then if we have to at a break, we'll test the audio.

6 (Recording played.)

7 THE COURT: Can you understand it, ladies and  
8 gentlemen of the jury? No? The other areas you can cover,  
9 and then at the break, if you want to try to address the  
01:08:05 10 technical issue, you can try to do that.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. BENNETT: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 BY MR. BENNETT:

14 Q. Can we bring up -- well, let me ask you -- and we  
01:08:22 15 talked about this earlier -- the GPS for the Ghuraba in  
16 America?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And can we identify, can we bring up Exhibit 51,  
19 please.

01:08:41 20 Is this the document we are talking about?

21 A. Yes, it is.

22 Q. Is this something you and Mr. --

23 THE COURT: Just a moment. We'll turn the  
24 monitor back on. We shut it off for the transcript. My  
01:08:59 25 apologies, ladies and gentlemen.

1           There we go.

2                   MR. BENNETT: It's up, everyone? All right.

3           Thanks.

4           BY MR. BENNETT:

01:09:07 5           Q.     Is this something you discussed with Mr. Hendricks  
6           during your meeting with him?

7           A.     Yes.

8           Q.     And what, if anything, did he tell you about this  
9           document?

01:09:15 10          A.     Well, he basically just told me that he was the author  
11          of the document and how vital the security tactics are.

12          Q.     So he advised you that he wrote this document?

13          A.     Yes.

14          Q.     Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 64, and I believe  
01:09:48 15          it's D, the last video.

16                   And before we start -- well, let's make sure it works.

17                   Okay. So we'll leave it there.

18                   After your conversation with Mr. Hendricks, what  
19                   happened?

01:10:04 20          A.     We simply departed and went our separate ways.

21          Q.     Was there any -- and we can play it.

22                   And, again, for the record, is that your vehicle on  
23                   the left?

24          A.     Yes.

01:10:21 25          Q.     And the vehicle on the right is whom's?

1 A. Mr. Hendricks.

2 Q. And are there two individuals that are still there in  
3 the video?

4 A. Yes.

01:10:31 5 Q. And is one of them you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And which one is that?

8 A. On the left side.

9 Q. And which one is Mr. Hendricks?

01:10:40 10 A. Right side.

11 Q. And how long do you believe this conversation,  
12 face-to-face, took with Mr. Hendricks?

13 A. I would say around two hours.

14 Q. And if we look at the video in the upper left-hand  
01:10:59 15 corner, is there a date for the video itself?

16 A. Yes, there's.

17 Q. What's that?

18 A. May 2, 2015.

19 Q. We can stop that.

01:11:18 20 Did you continue to have interaction with Mr.  
21 Hendricks via texts and social media?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 43, please.

24 I guess it's pretty good.

01:11:40 25 Can you identify this document?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What is this?

3 A. This is a screen shot from an application called  
4 Surespot.

01:11:48 5 Q. How do you know that it's Surespot?

6 A. Looking at the menu.

7 Q. And then to the left corner, is there anything there  
8 that is unique?

9 A. To the left corner?

01:12:07 10 Q. That circle with the hash in the middle. Does that  
11 mean anything to you?

12 A. That's simply a logo.

13 Q. A logo for?

14 A. Surespot.

01:12:20 15 Q. And what's the date on this?

16 A. Yes. The date is May 4, 2015.

17 Q. So this would have been a couple days after your  
18 meeting?

19 A. That's correct.

01:12:28 20 Q. Who is this coming from?

21 A. Okay. So this user name here, it's itsmehere.

22 Q. And who did you know itsmehere to be?

23 A. Mr. Hendricks.

24 Q. And what is being said here?

01:12:42 25 A. This is simply a direction to clean up the Twitter

1 profile that I was currently using.

2 Q. And did you, in fact, do that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Why? Why would you clean up -- what was wrong with or  
01:12:56 5 what did you need to do with your Twitter?

6 A. "Clean up the profile" meaning to take off, take down  
7 pictures, and potential tweets that would be problematic to  
8 law enforcement.

9 Q. And when you say problematic, what do you mean?

01:13:12 10 A. Problematic meaning something that would stand out or  
11 raise a flag.

12 Q. Such as?

13 A. Such as pictures of known extremists, preachers, for  
14 example, and likewise tweets of any violent activity.

01:13:30 15 Q. Can we go to page 3? So 43-3.

16 And blow up the text a little bit there.

17 There's a reference to another phone. Can you  
18 explain, were you having phone problems?

19 A. Yes, sometimes there were problems within the actual  
01:13:59 20 app itself.

21 Q. And was that you getting another phone or was that Mr.  
22 Hendricks getting another phone?

23 Well let me ask you this, on Surespot, how do you know  
24 who the writer is and who the responder is?

01:14:20 25 A. On Surespot, Surespot -- since Surespot is very

1 different from Wickr, you have to go by the color bar here  
2 that we see in the middle.

3 Q. Because on Wickr we saw one on one side and one on the  
4 sorry?

01:14:36 5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. So how is it different in Surespot?

7 A. So the main difference would be that there aren't any  
8 names shown with the actual writing itself.

9 Q. So you mentioned something about the color bar. What  
01:14:47 10 does that tell you?

11 A. Yes. So this color bar here basically is the only way  
12 to differentiate between who is saying what.

13 Q. Say are so in looking at that, are you able to tell  
14 who -- which one is you and which one is Mr. Hendricks?

01:15:01 15 A. If I remember correctly, the blue would indicate that  
16 was me.

17 Q. Are you sure?

18 A. I'm not sure.

19 Q. Okay. Then don't -- I don't want you to guess on it.

01:15:17 20 Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 44?

21 And looking at the top, what's the date on this?

22 A. The date here is May 5, 2015.

23 Q. And it's a little unclear at the top or it's a little  
24 fuzzy, but can you see how the user ID is there?

01:15:39 25 A. Yes, the same user ID, itsmehere.

1 Q. And that's the person sending you the message?

2 A. Yes, that's the person that I'm talking to.

3 Q. And what is being said in the first sentence there?

4 A. Okay. So the top, that would be me, me basically  
01:15:55 5 saying that I research the voice changers.

6 Q. So looking at that, the blue bar would be whom?

7 A. Yeah, so the blue bar would be the person that I'm  
8 talking to.

9 Q. And in this case, who are you speaking with?

01:16:06 10 A. Mr. Hendricks.

11 Q. And, again, what were the voice changers that you were  
12 researching?

13 A. I was researching encrypted voice changers, meaning  
14 something that would be basically untraceable.

01:16:20 15 Q. Okay. And Mr. Hendricks is stating back something  
16 about "ummzidane." Do you know who ummzidane is?

17 A. Not exactly, but I did recognize the name from  
18 Twitter.

19 Q. And what is being discussed there?

01:16:40 20 A. I'm being told to -- I'm being told to check her  
21 profile.

22 Q. For what?

23 A. Well, I didn't know at the time, so I basically went  
24 to check and see what that was about.

01:16:54 25 Q. So you're looking for something?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can we go to page 2 of this document of 44-2?

3 And then if you find this, whatever it is, what are  
4 you to do with it?

01:17:12 5 A. "Please enlighten everyone," meaning -- what I thought  
6 that to mean was to basically share whatever I found.

7 Q. So can we go to 44-3.

8 And blow that up.

9 And can you identify this document?

01:17:32 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What is this?

12 A. This was a document that was released regarding what  
13 took place in Garland, Texas.

14 Q. So is this an a screen shot of something, an  
01:17:46 15 application?

16 A. Yes. This is a screen shot of a tweet from Twitter.

17 Q. Okay. And the individual listed there that this tweet  
18 came from?

19 A. Yes. This is the same female that I was told to check  
01:18:00 20 her profile.

21 Q. And the date there on the bottom is what?

22 A. May 5, 2015.

23 Q. And "justpasteit" is listed in the middle there. Do  
24 you know what justpasteit is?

01:18:15 25 A. Yes.



1 Q. What is justpasteit?

2 A. That's simply a website that was used to create  
3 articles.

4 Q. What do you mean by that, create articles?

01:18:25 5 A. It starts off like the notepad app as a blank canvas.  
6 And then you can create whatever you would like to publish  
7 free of charge.

8 Q. And after it says justpasteit, what word is there?

9 A. Anonymous90.

01:18:45 10 Q. Is justpasteit somehow encrypted as well or allow you  
11 some anonymity?

12 A. Well, that was simply the name of the link to the  
13 article.

14 Q. Did you, in fact, go and download this document or  
01:19:01 15 read it?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 53, please?  
18 And can you identify this document?

19 A. Yes.

01:19:13 20 Q. What is this document?

21 A. This document was titled "The New Era."

22 Q. Okay. And if we look at the upper right, what's it  
23 say at the very top there?

24 A. Downloaded from "Justpaste.It/Anonymous90."

01:19:30 25 Q. So is that the same ID and information that you had

1 just seen?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. In the middle there, what is that symbol?

4 A. This is a flag that is used by many different  
01:19:46 5 extremist groups.

6 Q. Okay. In particular do you know it, does ISIS use  
7 this flag?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can we blow up the text itself down here from "To our  
01:19:59 10 brothers."

11 And in the second paragraph that's there, what is  
12 being said?

13 A. It is being said that the Islamic State in America has  
14 planned an attack and they have successfully -- they have  
01:20:16 15 successfully attacked Pamela Geller.

16 Q. And again, who is Pamela Geller?

17 A. She was a female who basically held a competition  
18 yearly to Draw the Prophet Muhammad.

19 Q. And then above that, the last sentence there, there's  
01:20:37 20 a reference to the golden era. Do you know if that has any  
21 special meaning?

22 A. Yes. So it says here, "This is the golden era,  
23 everyone who believes is running for shaheed." So this is  
24 an expression that was being used.

01:20:59 25 Q. Can we -- had you seen that term before?

1 A. The term shaheed I have seen before, yes.

2 Q. How about the golden era?

3 A. No, I haven't.

4 Q. Can we bring up page 2 of this document, so 53-2? And  
01:21:16 5 just bring up the text that's there.

6 And in the middle, what is being said there?

7 A. "We have 71 trained soldiers in 15 different states  
8 ready at our word to attack any target we desire. Out of  
9 the 71 trained soldiers, 23 have signed up for missions like  
01:21:35 10 Sunday. We are increasing in number." This next word  
11 simply means with the permission of God. "Of the 15 states,  
12 five we will name, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, California,  
13 and Michigan. The disbelievers who shot our brothers think  
14 that you killed someone untrained, nay, they gave you their  
01:21:57 15 bodies in plain view because we were watching."

16 Q. Do you know what the reference is to the "Shot our  
17 brothers"?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What was that?

01:22:07 20 A. Yes, so during the attack in Garland, Texas, some of  
21 the attackers were indeed shot.

22 Q. And how did you get to this document again?

23 A. I was told to view the document.

24 Q. By whom?

01:22:22 25 A. Mr. Hendricks.

1 Q. And did you do anything with this document after you  
2 found it and you reviewed it?

3 A. I simply shared it on my Twitter account.

4 Q. And were you requested to do that?

01:22:33 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And by whom?

7 A. Mr. Hendricks.

8 Q. Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 45.

9 And can we blow up the top there?

01:22:49 10 Can you identify what application this is?

11 A. Yes, this is also Surespot.

12 Q. And can you -- I know it's a little grainy there, but  
13 can you make out the date?

14 A. May 11, 2015.

01:23:03 15 Q. So a few days later?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And it's even a little more grainy -- no, it doesn't  
18 get any better.

19 On the top there, can you make out the user ID?

01:23:16 20 A. Yes, the user ID was T-E-R-W-A-T-C-H, terwatch.

21 Q. And who did you know to be using terwatch?

22 A. Mr. Hendricks.

23 Q. Can we go to page 2 of this document? So 45-2, and  
24 pull up the top part there.

01:23:45 25 What are you guys talking about there this text?

1 A. We're talking about a 12-part lecture series.

2 Q. Okay. Do you know what the AA stands for?

3 A. Yes. The AA stands for shorthand of the name of the  
4 author who was Anwar Al-Awlaki.

01:24:07 5 Q. And we have talked about that previously?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Had you spoken to Mr. Hendricks about that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Had he recommended this to you?

01:24:13 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And were you, in fact, reading through them?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can we bring up page 4? So 45-4.

14 And just the bottom of this one. Sorry.

01:24:31 15 And so this is the same user ID, later on in the same  
16 text.

17 What are you discussing with Mr. Hendricks?

18 A. Discussing some way to make a social media account  
19 that we could always use for communication.

01:24:52 20 Q. And what does he say about the two of you?

21 A. "We are a team."

22 Q. Did you, in fact, create something?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay. Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 45, page  
01:25:04 25 5?

1 And just pull up the top there.

2 What is being discussed here in this same series of  
3 texts?

4 A. Here marriage is being discussed.

01:25:17 5 Q. All right. And what is being said about somebody for  
6 you?

7 A. Right. So he is saying that he may know someone that  
8 I could potentially marry.

9 Q. And then what is he asking you to do?

01:25:31 10 A. He's asking me to send him a photograph.

11 Q. So at some point did you, in fact, send him a  
12 photograph of yourself?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So if we go down to the lower portion, the next tweet,  
01:25:43 15 what else is being said about this individual?

16 A. He is giving me a description of the female.

17 Q. And what's he saying?

18 A. "She is 21 years old and she doesn't have any kids."

19 Q. So can we go to Exhibit 45, page 6?

01:26:00 20 Top part.

21 And what are you saying here at the bottom?

22 A. I'm saying that "I will send a picture in the  
23 morning."

24 Q. So at this point, you had not sent him a photograph?

01:26:15 25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And what is the response?

2 A. Okay. A-K-H means brother.

3 Q. And is there some sense of urgency?

4 A. Yes.

01:26:26 5 Q. Can we go to the lower part of this exhibit?

6 And what is it saying at the top there, portion?

7 A. At the top he is saying to me "Not sure you want to  
8 miss out on timing. I'll give you an Email to send it to."

9 Q. And then, in fact, are you given an Email?

01:26:45 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And for the record, can you read that Email?

12 A. Yes. The Email reads "Charlesmaydot@gmail com."

13 Q. So that's the word Charles and then M-A-Y and then  
14 D-O-T at Gmail.com?

01:27:03 15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And what's the date above it?

17 A. The date above it is May 11, 2015.

18 Q. Do you know a charlesmaydot?

19 A. No, I don't.

01:27:14 20 Q. Can we go to Exhibit 45, page 7.

21 And the top there.

22 So we see the Email address again. And what are you  
23 saying on the bottom there?

24 A. I'm saying that there's something wrong with the  
01:27:38 25 Email. It's not sending.

1 Q. So at some point were you actually able to send him a  
2 photograph?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So can we go to Government's Exhibit 46, please?

01:27:52 5 And can you identify this document?

6 A. Yes. This is a conversation from May 12.

7 Q. And if we look at the bottom portion of it. Do you  
8 see who is this conversation with?

9 A. Yes.

01:28:19 10 Q. And at the bottom, you say "I had a chance for da wah  
11 earlier. What is da wah?

12 A. That simply means missionary work.

13 Q. And then can we go to 46, page 3.

14 And at the top there.

01:28:48 15 What's the ID that you're communicating with, the  
16 individual?

17 A. T-E-R-W-A-T-C-H, terwatch.

18 Q. And what are you being told here?

19 A. I'm being told that "This life is a test and a vehicle  
01:29:06 20 to A," meaning Allah or God.

21 Q. And what are you responding?

22 A. I'm responding with a very popular phrase used by  
23 Muslims which basically means God bless you.

24 Q. And can we go to the lower part of this?

01:29:28 25 At the top there, what are you being told by Mr.



1 Hendricks?

2 A. I'm being told to now remove the post that I had  
3 shared earlier. And likewise, to lay low.

01:29:42

4 Q. And when you say the earlier post, was that The New  
5 Era document?

6 A. Yes, that's correct.

7 Q. And then there's another reference below that about  
8 not getting the picture?

9 A. Yes.

01:29:53

10 Q. That's on the 12th. Correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So let's go to Government's Exhibit 46, page 4.  
13 And at the top there, what is this?

14 A. This is when I sent a photograph.

01:30:19

15 Q. And that's a photograph of yourself?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And on the bottom of this, page 46, page 4, what is  
18 being depicted here?

19 A. This is a photograph that I was sent.

01:30:37

20 Q. And you were sent this photograph by whom?

21 A. Mr. Hendricks.

22 Q. And then if we go to page 5, Exhibit 46.

23 At the top there.

24 What is he asking you?

01:30:55

25 A. My opinion. Did I like the photograph.

1 Q. And what else is he saying about her?

2 A. She is 21.

3 Q. And what are you saying in response?

4 A. I'm saying I would like to meet her sometime.

01:31:05 5 Q. And can we go down to the bottom?

6 And what is this? There is your "I'd like to meet her  
7 again." What's below that?

8 A. Yes, this is a second photograph.

9 Q. Of the same individual?

01:31:18 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And that came from whom?

12 A. Mr. Hendricks.

13 Q. Okay. So can we go to Government Exhibit 46, page 6.

14 And what is Mr. Hendricks saying here?

01:31:32 15 A. Okay. He is saying that he has certain rules that he  
16 would like to tell me before I start the communication.

17 Q. Okay. And then what else regarding questions?

18 A. In regards to questions, that she has questions and  
19 he's sure that I have questions as well.

01:31:51 20 Q. So to facilitate, what's he going to do?

21 A. He was going to give me a specific Email to use for  
22 the communication.

23 Q. And at the bottom, what else does he say?

24 A. "No text message and no messenger." Messenger  
01:32:08 25 means -- it's very similar to text messages.

1 Q. So it's all to go through this Email?

2 A. Yes, correct.

3 Q. Can we go to the bottom part of page 6?

4 And in the middle there, what does Mr. Hendricks say  
01:32:23 5 about this individual?

6 A. He mentions here that this is his daughter.

7 Q. And then underneath this, that fact that it's his  
8 daughter is what?

9 A. And he also mentions that he needs me to promise him  
01:32:38 10 three things before, before he gives me the Email.

11 Q. Okay. So let's go to page 7 of Exhibit 46.

12 And can we blow up the top?

13 Are these those three things?

14 A. Yes.

01:32:54 15 Q. What are they? What's the first thing?

16 A. The first thing is to "Never leave the path of jihad  
17 even if you have 20 kids."

18 Q. What is the path of jihad?

19 A. The path of jihad would mean the -- it would mean the  
01:33:22 20 path of fighting for the religion, whether that would be  
21 physically or online, whichever way possible.

22 Q. And in your mind, what would having 20 kids have to do  
23 with the path of jihad?

24 A. Sometimes people may use things like -- sometimes  
01:33:44 25 people may use their own personal attachments as an excuse

1 to leave the path of taking up arms.

2 Q. So even if you have 20 kids, you got to stay on the  
3 path?

4 A. Correct.

01:33:57 5 Q. What's number two?

6 A. Number 2, "If I tell you she know longer wants to  
7 pursue, you must stop communication."

8 Q. And the third?

9 A. The third, "Never allow your relationship with her to  
01:34:09 10 interfere with our brotherhood."

11 Q. And then what's he asking at the bottom?

12 A. "Do you agree?"

13 Q. And can we go to the lower part of this?

14 Blow that up.

01:34:20 15 So there's the question, "Do you agree again," and  
16 what is your response?

17 A. My response, two reasons. My first response was,  
18 "Yes." And the second response was, "It's late now so  
19 tomorrow is fine."

01:34:31 20 Q. But, in fact, you get an Email address?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. And what, for the record, is the Email address given?

23 A. The Email address given is M-U-S-L-I-M-A-H803  
24 jazz@gmail.com.

01:34:47 25 Q. And at some point do you reach out and communicate

1 with this Email?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So can we go to Government's Exhibit 48?

4 Can you blow that up.

01:35:11 5 And can you identify what this is?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What is this?

8 A. This is a screen shot of the very first Email that I  
9 sent.

01:35:21 10 Q. So you sent the initial Email?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And what are you referencing in the Email?

13 A. I am referencing the fact that we both may have  
14 questions.

01:35:34 15 Q. And can we go to Exhibit 48, page 3.

16 And pull up the text.

17 And in this version of it, what is this document?

18 A. This is a screen shot of the reply to that Email.

19 Q. And is there a name at the top now in this reply?

01:35:59 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What's that name?

22 A. The name reads "Jazzy May."

23 Q. And what does Jazzy May say about herself?

24 A. She tells me where she was born in New York. And she  
01:36:12 25 tells me that she's from South Carolina.

1 Q. And what does she tell you her name is?

2 A. Jasmine.

3 Q. And does she also mention her age?

4 A. Yes.

01:36:25 5 Q. And then what is going on in the bottom portion?

6 A. The bottom portion, those were questions directed  
7 towards me.

8 Q. And I won't go through each one of these, Exhibit 48  
9 is a 12-page document, but did you go back and forth?

01:36:44 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Through several communications with Jasmine?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 48, page 7?  
14 And blow up that top part.

01:36:58 15 And I'm looking in the middle. There's some  
16 discussion about housewives. What was the discussion of  
17 housewives?

18 A. Right, so that was a response to a question that I had  
19 asked previously.

01:37:15 20 Q. And were you using this topic for any particular  
21 reason in communicating with Jasmine?

22 A. I simply used the topic as a -- somewhat of a topic to  
23 be discussed regarding marriage in general.

24 Q. Can we go to page 12, the last page of Exhibit 48?

01:37:41 25 And blow up the top portion there?

1 What is being discussed here?

2 A. This is something that I sent regarding family.

3 Q. Okay. And what was your comments with regard to like  
4 a housewife and where your relationship would go?

01:38:07 5 A. Okay. So my comment here was that my ideal situation  
6 is that my significant other would be a housewife.

7 Q. And was that taken well?

8 A. No.

9 Q. How did the communications end?

01:38:24 10 A. So the communications ended mutually after this  
11 discussion.

12 Q. So did you have any additional communications with  
13 Jasmine after this?

14 A. No.

01:38:37 15 Q. Can we go to Government's Exhibit 47?

16 Can we blow up the top portion that's there?

17 And can you identify this document?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What is this?

01:38:55 20 A. This is a screen shot from Surespot.

21 Q. And if we go down -- is this something you would have  
22 taken?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Who are you communicating -- what's the ID in this  
01:39:10 25 particular document?

1 A. The ID here is dontcatch17.

2 Q. And what is this application at this point?

3 A. At this point, this application is Wickr.

4 Q. So can we go back to the top part of 47?

01:39:27 5 47, page 1.

6 And at the bottom there, what is being said?

7 A. I am being told that he will change I.D.'s.

8 Q. And then do you get the other bottom part that we just  
9 saw?

01:39:51 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And can we bring that back up?

12 And what is the application being used here?

13 A. This application is Wickr.

14 Q. And you know that why?

01:40:05 15 A. I know that because I have been using Wickr  
16 previously.

17 Q. And we're back to having the back and forth on either  
18 sides?

19 A. Yes.

01:40:15 20 Q. Did you have any additional communications with Mr.  
21 Hendricks beyond this last text?

22 A. The communications cut shortly after.

23 Q. Did you attempt to reach out to Mr. Hendricks again?

24 A. Yes.

01:40:37 25 Q. Were you successful?



1 A. No.

2 Q. Were you ever given any explanation by him?

3 A. No.

4 Q. So if we go back to the top portion of this Exhibit  
01:41:10 5 47, what's the last date that you receive a communication  
6 from Mr. Hendricks?

7 A. The last date would be May 13, 2015.

8 Q. So after this date, did you have any conversations  
9 with or communications with Mr. Hendricks?

01:41:28 10 A. No.

11 Q. And, again, did you attempt to reach out to him?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And were you ever given any explanation as to why you  
14 couldn't get ahold of him?

01:41:39 15 A. No.

16 Q. No further questions.

17 THE COURT: Counsel, do you want to take a few  
18 moments and see if the technology has been -- issue has been  
19 remedied?

01:41:51 20 MR. BENNETT: Oh, yes.

21 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen,  
22 we'll take a few moments and see if we can remedy the  
23 problem. If we cannot, we'll turn to cross-examination in  
24 short order.

01:42:04 25 All right. Thank you very much.

1 Take about ten minutes. Please leave your notepads on  
2 your chairs. Remember all the admonitions I've given you.  
3 Please do not discuss the case among yourselves, with anyone  
4 else.

01:42:17 5 Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

6 (Jury out, 9:50 a.m.)

7 THE COURT: All right, sir, you can step down.

8 Counsel, let the clerk no as quickly as possible if  
9 you can remedy the problem. If you cannot, then we're going  
01:42:56 10 to go to cross-examination.

11 It may be beneficial for future use to come to the  
12 courtroom the beginning of the day, test the technology so  
13 we don't keep the jurors waiting. I know from past  
14 experience jurors frown on being kept waiting while we're  
01:43:12 15 playing with the technology. But it is what it is. But it  
16 would be beneficial to try to clear these things up before  
17 we get started.

18 Thank you very much.

19 (Recess taken 9:50 a.m.)

01:55:19 20 (Jury in 10:02 a.m.)

21 THE COURT: Counsel, you may complete your  
22 direction examination, please.

23 MR. BENNETT: Thank you, Your Honor. We  
24 discovered it was just one bad file.

01:57:40 25 Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 62F, which I

1 think we have up, and can we play it, please?

2 (Recording played.)

3 BY MR. BENNETT:

4 Q. So, it sounds in the recording if there was a piece of  
01:58:53 5 paper that was being rattled or shuffled that's there?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can we bring back up Government's Exhibit 65?

8 And we can leave it like this.

9 Was this the piece of paper that we saw earlier?

01:59:08 10 A. Yes, it is.

11 Q. And there's handwriting that's on there?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And remind us, whose handwriting is that?

14 A. This is my handwriting.

01:59:16 15 Q. And in the recording you reference 2015?

16 A. Yes, correct.

17 Q. Does that relate to something on the paper there that  
18 you wrote down?

19 A. Yes, that relates to this article here, How to Survive  
01:59:30 20 in the West.

21 Q. And can we bring up Government's Exhibit 66?

22 And was this that guide?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 62G and play  
01:59:46 25 that?

1 (Recording played.)

2 BY MR. BENNETT:

3 Q. When you were being asked to scroll down, what is  
4 occurring at this point?

02:01:01 5 A. Basically that was me writing down the directions of  
6 what to do once I get to the website.

7 Q. And that was the website that was above there?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And just for the record, it was spelled  
02:01:18 10 K-A-L-A-M-U-L-L-A-H.com.

11 And did we see that on your handwritten note as well?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And who was this all referencing, the individual in  
14 the lectures?

02:01:32 15 A. This was referencing a lecture series by Anwar  
16 Al-Awlaki.

17 (Recording played.)

18 BY MR. BENNETT:

19 Q. So, Mr. Hendricks is saying it's all about -- what's  
02:03:03 20 that, the word, and what does it mean?

21 A. Okay. So there's to words. The hadeeth word, this is  
22 basically -- this is basically regarding sayings of the  
23 Prophet Muhammad and different things that he did. He would  
24 have certain people who would document basically everything  
02:03:25 25 that he would say at certain times. They would document

1 that and save it for historical purposes.

2 Q. Okay. And then you said there's a second portion to  
3 this?

4 A. Yes. And the second portion would be jihad which is  
02:03:39 5 fighting for the cause of God.

6 (Recording played.)

7 BY MR. BENNETT:

8 Q. And what is a she-mams, if you know?

9 A. Right. So the correct word would be imam, which is  
02:04:02 10 the preacher of the mosque and so she-mams was used just to  
11 make it a feminine term.

12 Q. Is that bad in some way?

13 A. Yes.

14 (Recording played.)

02:05:03 15 BY MR. BENNETT:

16 Q. And again, there seems to be a female voice. Do you  
17 know who that is?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Who is that?

02:05:08 20 A. That's the wife of Mr. Hendricks.

21 Q. Do you know what the Sunna is that's being referenced  
22 there?

23 A. Possibly part of the title of a certain book.

24 Q. How about the Constants of Jihad?

02:05:23 25 A. Yes, that is a title of a book.

1 Q. And is that something you wrote down as well?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Something Mr. Hendricks directed you to?

4 A. Yes.

02:05:42 5 (Recording played.)

6 BY MR. BENNETT:

7 Q. That term "Academy of the Mujahideen, do you know what  
8 that is a reference to?

9 A. Yes, that's a reference to the book being a training  
02:06:26 10 manual.

11 Q. For?

12 A. For jihad.

13 (Recording played.)

14 BY MR. BENNETT:

02:07:15 15 Q. Mr. Hendricks is referencing something he wrote with  
16 his wife. What was that?

17 A. That was the document titled GPS of the Ghuraba.

18 Q. And we've seen that previously up on the screen?

19 A. Yes.

02:07:26 20 Q. That 19-page document?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

23 (Recording played.)

24 BY MR. BENNETT:

02:07:39 25 Q. And at the end there, what is Mr. Hendricks asking you

1 to do?

2 A. "Hopefully you will spread that as well."

3 Q. And did you do anything with that? Spread? What did  
4 you take that to mean?

02:07:51 5 A. I took that to mean to share it online in my social  
6 media profiles.

7 Q. Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 62H?

8 (Recording played.)

9 BY MR. BENNETT:

02:09:19 10 Q. What Mr. Hendricks referenced there about the  
11 counter-surveillance and the circling, did you guys do that  
12 on this day before you end up there this actual parking lot?

13 A. Yes, that's correct.

14 (Recording played.)

02:10:15 15 BY MR. BENNETT:

16 Q. And is this in line, what he's saying about the cell  
17 phones, with what you were told in the Burger King restroom?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you guys were using a handheld walkie-talkie going  
02:10:29 20 forward?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay.

23 (Recording played.)

24 BY MR. BENNETT:

02:11:21 25 Q. So the word halal, what does that mean and what's he

1 saying here?

2 A. Halal means something that's lawful a religious sense.

3 Q. And what is being said about war?

4 A. Right, so he's quoting a -- he's referencing a quote

02:11:40 5 from the Prophet Muhammad which is war is deception.

6 (Recording played.)

7 BY MR. BENNETT:

8 Q. What is a baby?

9 A. A baby means that we are still in the beginning stages

02:12:55 10 of this.

11 Q. And at this point, based on all your interactions with

12 Mr. Hendricks and communication, do you have an idea of the

13 number of brothers there are?

14 A. Not exactly, just a few.

02:13:12 15 (Recording played.)

16 BY MR. BENNETT:

17 Q. And the "Ability to shoot" what?

18 A. I'm not sure exactly what was the intent.

19 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

02:13:32 20 (Recording played.)

21 BY MR. BENNETT:

22 Q. And, again, when there are translations of these words

23 that are here, who is providing those translations?

24 A. I'm providing those translations.

02:14:58 25 Q. You've listened to this, and these are the translation



1 of the words that were said?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And what all is this referencing?

4 A. This is referencing sacrifice.

02:15:11 5 Q. Sacrifice of what?

6 A. Having to sacrifice worldly possessions and worldly  
7 aims for that of the hereafter.

8 Q. And then there's a reference to misinformation?

9 A. Yes.

02:15:23 10 Q. What does that mean?

11 A. Misinformation such as the counter-surveillance.

12 (Recording played.)

13 BY MR. BENNETT:

14 Q. And who's the "They" that's being referenced?

02:16:45 15 A. They would be law enforcement.

16 Q. And can we bring up Government's Exhibit 62I?

17 And can we play this, please?

18 (Recording played.)

19 BY MR. BENNETT:

02:17:32 20 Q. When you're saying here that "I'm not useless but I  
21 don't know I'm that useful," what are you referring to?

22 A. I was referring to as far as physical, physical  
23 activities.

24 Q. Such as?

02:17:43 25 A. Such as the raiding, which was mentioned earlier.

1 Q. Did you have or do you have any military background?

2 A. No, I don't.

3 Q. Was that discussed at some point with Mr. Hendricks?

4 A. Not specifically, no.

02:17:57 5 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

6 (Recording played.)

7 BY MR. BENNETT:

8 Q. Sounds like there's a plane going overhead?

9 A. Yes.

02:18:56 10 Q. What are you discussing here regarding training?

11 A. Yes, so basically saying that right now the main thing  
12 is to get me trained.

13 Q. And training meant what?

14 A. Training meant --

02:19:09 15 MR. HARTMAN: Objection, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Sustained.

17 BY MR. BENNETT:

18 Q. You respond how?

19 A. I responded by saying, "I need some preparation."

02:19:20 20 Q. And did you agree to some training?

21 A. I agree that I would be willing to partake in  
22 training.

23 Q. And what training would that be?

24 A. That would be physical training.

02:19:31 25 Q. Go ahead.

1 (Recording played.)

2 BY MR. BENNETT:

3 Q. And what is he saying about when the training would  
4 be?

02:20:05 5 A. During the night.

6 (Recording played.)

7 BY MR. BENNETT:

8 Q. There's some reference here to violence. Do you know  
9 what that meant?

02:20:59 10 A. The violence would be during the night raids.

11 (Recording played.)

12 BY MR. BENNETT:

13 Q. And what would a safe house be?

14 A. A safe house would be somewhere to lay low.

02:21:53 15 (Recording played.)

16 BY. MR. BENNETT:

17 Q. Did you end up actually going to Baltimore, the actual  
18 city?

19 A. The actual city, no.

02:24:10 20 Q. Why not?

21 A. There were National Guard in the actual city that  
22 morning.

23 Q. Okay.

24 (Recording played.)

02:25:25 25 BY MR. BENNETT:

1 Q. This last part, there's several references to "Off the  
2 grid"?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What does off the grid mean?

02:25:32 5 A. That simply means sort of like a place to lay low.

6 Q. So what happened directly after this meeting?

7 A. Directly after this meeting, we went our separate  
8 ways.

9 Q. And where did you go?

02:25:50 10 A. I returned to Pennsylvania.

11 Q. And at some point did you go back and meet with the  
12 officers, with the FBI, the agents?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And did you return the recording device?

02:26:02 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you speak with the agents at that time?

17 A. Yes.

18 MR. BENNETT: No further questions, Your Honor.

19 Thank you.

02:26:12 20 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

21 Counsel, you may cross-examine.

22 MR. HARTMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 CROSS-EXAMINATION OF HAMZA AL-ANSARI

24 BY MR. HARTMAN:

02:26:28 25 Q. Sir, you get paid for doing this kind of work for the

1 FBI, do you not?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And you've been doing that for five or six years?

4 A. That's correct.

02:26:36 5 Q. Made about \$45,000 for doing this?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You were -- you mentioned yesterday that you were in  
8 Islam for about nine years. Am I right about that?

9 A. About eight years.

02:26:54 10 Q. Eight years?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Why did you leave?

13 A. It simply didn't resonate with me any longer.

14 Q. So you just decided to leave it aside?

02:27:03 15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Now, you want to be an FBI agent?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you're hoping that doing this kind of work will  
19 help you achieve that goal?

02:27:18 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Have you been told that it will?

22 A. No, I haven't.

23 Q. You also study information technology?

24 A. That's correct.

02:27:27 25 Q. Are you familiar with how to hack into a website?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You've done it before?

3 A. I have for practical purposes, but not illegally.

4 Q. For practical purposes. What does that mean?

02:27:42 5 A. Yes, for example, when you take a class on hacking,  
6 you have to practice the hacking itself. But it's done in a  
7 controlled environment. So it's not done illegally.

8 Q. So this was done through your school work?

9 A. Yes, correct.

02:27:56 10 Q. Have you ever hacked a phone?

11 A. No, I haven't.

12 Q. You know that's possible, though, correct?

13 A. Yes, that's possible.

14 Q. In fact, if one hacks a phone, the phone can actually  
02:28:09 15 be taken over?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Through something call malware?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And I don't want to get too technical, but a trojan?

02:28:19 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And that can be embedded in a link that's sent  
22 through an Email or any social media platform; isn't that  
23 right?

24 A. That's correct.

02:28:32 25 Q. Now, you put your Wickr screen name on Twitter,

1 correct?

2 A. Wickr, yes.

3 Q. So literally anyone on Twitter that -- anyone on  
4 Twitter could have seen that and could have contacted you on  
02:28:56 5 Wickr?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Now, when you were first identified on Wickr, you  
8 didn't know -- when you were first contacted on Wickr, you  
9 didn't know who was contacting you, did you?

02:29:20 10 A. No.

11 Q. So when you were communicating with Nowhaq, you didn't  
12 know who that was?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Nowhaq1, you didn't know who that was?

02:29:34 15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And hidingmyrights, you didn't know who that was  
17 either?

18 A. I did because I was told. After a certain point, I  
19 was told who I was speaking to. And so then I was able to  
02:29:43 20 go back and find the Twitter account that was linked to the  
21 Wickr account.

22 Q. Told by whom?

23 A. I was told by Mr. Hendricks.

24 Q. I'm curious, what messaging app did you use on the  
02:30:00 25 morning of May 2 when you were on your way to this meeting?

1 A. On the morning of May 2 on the way, I used Surespot.

2 Q. And does Surespot allow you to take screen shots  
3 internally?

4 A. Internally, no.

02:30:16 5 Q. It doesn't?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Now, you were, for lack of a better term, trying to  
8 play bad guy, right?

9 A. Um, I wouldn't say that. I was basically -- I would  
02:30:37 10 basically be put into a scenario where I could attract  
11 anyone that would be interested in certain violent  
12 activities.

13 Q. So you were trying --

14 A. Extremist activities.

02:30:49 15 Q. Sorry. I didn't reason to interrupt you.

16 So you were trying to take on a certain persona?

17 A. Yep.

18 Q. And Mr. Hendricks told you that he put a lot of  
19 misinformation out there, didn't he?

02:31:01 20 A. Yes, he mentioned that during the  
21 counter-surveillance.

22 Q. Okay. So he was in a sense also taking on a persona,  
23 correct?

24 A. Possibly.

02:31:10 25 Q. Now, when you say you discussed possible targets being



1 military recruitment centers, that's not audible on any of  
2 this recording, correct?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And when you talked about land being used for  
02:31:33 5 training, that's also not audible on any of this recording?

6 A. That was audible.

7 Q. What about when you were told to research a voice  
8 changer? That wasn't audible on this recording?

9 A. I don't believe so.

02:31:51 10 Q. Okay. So all we have is your word on that?

11 A. Yes. There are fragments of that conversation, but  
12 not the entire conversation is audible.

13 MR. HARTMAN: Judge, can I have a moment?

14 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

02:33:52 15 MR. HARTMAN: Your Honor, I have no further  
16 questions at this time.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 Any redirect of the witness?

19 MR. BENNETT: Yes, Your Honor. Briefly.

02:33:59 20 REDIRECT EXAMINATION OF HAMZA AL-ANSARI

21 BY MR. BENNETT:

22 Q. You were asked about the fact that Mr. Hendricks put  
23 misinformation?

24 A. Yes.

02:34:09 25 Q. Misinformation online?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What did he tell you with regard to face-to-face  
3 meetings?

4 A. He told me that face-to-face we would not lie to each  
02:34:17 5 other.

6 Q. And you were also asked about accepted and Nowhaq.  
7 What app user ID were you dealing with in setting up  
8 the meeting in Baltimore?

9 A. Do you mean my user ID --

02:34:32 10 Q. No, the user ID you were communicating with?  
11 Accepted?

12 A. I would have to look back at the documents.

13 Q. At the end of the day, when you met at the Burger King  
14 in Baltimore, who was the individual who showed up?

02:34:50 15 A. The --

16 Q. Who showed up in the bathroom at Burger King?

17 A. That was Mr. Hendricks.

18 Q. And who did you have a two-hour conversation with  
19 outside of Baltimore?

02:35:00 20 A. Mr. Hendricks.

21 MR. BENNETT: No further questions.

22 MR. HARTMAN: Just one follow-up, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Yes, sir, you may.

24 RECROSS-EXAMINATION OF HAMZA AL-ANSARI

02:35:07 25 BY MR. HARTMAN:

1 Q. sir, when you said that when you talk -- you said Mr.  
2 Hendricks said when we talk face-to-face, we don't lie to  
3 each other, correct?

4 A. That's correct.

02:35:17 5 Q. Now, when you were letting him believe that you were  
6 interested in all these things, you were lying, right?

7 A. That's correct.

8 MR. HARTMAN: Thank you.

9 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir. You're  
02:35:27 10 excused.

11 You may step down.

12 Counsel -- ladies and gentlemen of the jury, is  
13 everyone okay?

14 All right. Can you call your next witness, please?

02:35:43 15 MS. MAGNONE: Yes, Your Honor, the government  
16 calls Ms. Jasmine Bevany.

17 THE COURT: Ma'am, if you would approach the  
18 witness stand, please, over here to my right.

19 Just right here, if you would.

02:36:32 20 Would you please remain standing for a moment while I  
21 administer the oath.

22 JASMINE BEVANY,

23 of lawful age, a witness called by the United States,

24 being first duly placed under oath, was examined

02:36:56 25 and testified as follows:

1 THE COURT: Yes?

2 THE WITNESS: I don't know -- I guess I do, I  
3 will.

4 THE COURT: You will accept the oath? You  
02:37:02 5 affirm?

6 THE WITNESS: I confirm, accept.

7 THE COURT: All right. We'll note that for the  
8 record. Have a seat.

9 Just relax.

02:37:10 10 Counsel, you may inquire.

11 MS. MAGNONE: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Ma'am, let me give you some  
13 brief -- just listen to me for a moment. Okay?

14 Listen carefully to the questions. Wait until the  
02:37:25 15 attorneys complete their questions before you begin to  
16 respond to the question. The court reporters, the ladies  
17 seated here in front of me, they have to transcribe or type  
18 down your answers.

19 If anyone says objection, do not -- wait until I rule  
02:37:42 20 on the objecting, please. If I say sustained, you won't  
21 answer the question, all right?

22 Can we do that?

23 Thank you. And one other thing. You can't nod your  
24 head yes or no, you have to say yes or no because, again,  
02:37:55 25 the ladies have to take down what you say, all right.

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 Counsel, you may inquire.

4 MS. MAGNONE: Thank you.

02:38:01 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION OF JASMINE BEVANY

6 BY MS. MAGNONE:

7 Q. Good morning. Can you tell us what your full name is  
8 and then can you spell your last name for the court  
9 reporter?

02:38:07 10 A. Jasmine Bevany. Last name B-E-V-A-N-Y.

11 Q. And how old are you, if you don't mind me asking?

12 A. Twenty-four.

13 Q. So in May of 2015, how old were you?

14 A. Twenty-one.

02:38:26 15 Q. Sorry to make you do math.

16 Do you know the defendant in this case, Erick Jamal  
17 Hendricks?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And what is your relationship to him?

02:38:34 20 A. Step-daughter.

21 Q. And what is your mother's name?

22 A. Andrea Hansen.

23 Q. I would like you -- we're going to pull a couple  
24 pictures now for you to look at.

02:38:47 25 If we could bring up Government Exhibit 46, page 4,

1 please.

2 And can we -- 46, page 4.

3 And if we could zoom in on that bottom one.

4 Jasmine, do you recognize the person in this picture?

02:39:11 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And who is it?

7 A. Me.

8 Q. And was this picture on your face book in 2015, May  
9 2015?

02:39:18 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Let's pull up another Government Exhibit, page 5,  
12 please. And zoom in.

13 Yes. Thank you.

14 And this someone a little blurry, but do you recognize  
02:39:34 15 this picture?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And who's the person in this picture?

18 A. Me.

19 Q. And was this also on your face book page in 2015?

02:39:42 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. So now we're going to talk about a specific  
22 Email address.

23 If we could bring up Government Exhibit 48, page 2.

24 And if you could enlarge the Email address next to the  
02:39:59 25 2 there. It is a little tough to see.

1 No, just the Email address, please.

2 Maybe zoom back out a little bit.

3 Sorry.

4 Thank you.

02:40:08 5 BY MS. MAGNON:

6 Q. Okay. Jasmine, on the screen in front of you there's  
7 an Email address that says Muslimah803jazz@gmail.com.

8 Do you recognize that Email address?

9 A. Yes.

02:40:24 10 Q. And did you use that Email address in May of 2015?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Can we please bring up page 3 of that same  
13 exhibit.

14 Jasmine, if you could take a minute and just review  
02:40:39 15 this Email.

16 Do you recognize this Email?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And did you write this Email?

19 A. Yes.

02:40:49 20 Q. Now, this may seem like an obvious question, but how  
21 do you know that you're the one that wrote this Email?

22 A. Because I remember writing it.

23 Q. Okay.

24 And who were these Emails between? Who were you  
02:41:03 25 writing to as far as you knew?

1 A. I don't remember his name, but a guy that I was  
2 interested in.

3 Q. And when you say interested in, do you mean like  
4 dating relationship?

02:41:14 5 A. Courting.

6 Q. Courting, okay.

7 Can we go back to page 2 of Government Exhibit 48,  
8 please?

9 This person that you were talking to, did he tell you  
02:41:29 10 where he was from?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And where was he from?

13 A. Pennsylvania.

14 Q. Okay.

02:41:35 15 And can we go to page 4, please.

16 And what did he tell you he did for a living?

17 A. Computer programming.

18 Q. Okay.

19 You can close that down.

02:41:54 20 Prior to your testimony today, did you have the  
21 opportunity to review all 12 pages of this Email exchange?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And were those Emails the full extent of your  
24 interaction with this person?

02:42:06 25 A. Yes.



1 Q. Can we pull up page 12.

2 48, page 12, please.

3 Now, do you see a date -- no zooming.

4 Do you see a date at the bottom of this page?

02:42:21 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What's the date?

7 A. May 16, 2015.

8 Q. And was that the last -- was this the last time you  
9 ever spoke to this person?

02:42:30 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And can you just tell us briefly why you stopped  
12 talking to the man from Pennsylvania?

13 A. Because he wanted me to be a housewife, and I didn't  
14 want to.

02:42:41 15 Q. Okay. Fair enough.

16 So who put the two of you in contact?

17 A. Erick.

18 Q. Erick being your stepdad?

19 A. Yes.

02:42:54 20 Q. And can you just tell us how that came about?

21 A. I was 21, and I wanted to start courting with people  
22 so that I could prepare for marriage. And he was one of  
23 them, one of the people that he knew.

24 Q. Okay. So you told your stepdad that you were

02:43:17 25 interested in potentially meeting people; is that correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Had you used this Email address,  
3 Muslimah803jazz before this interaction?

4 A. No.

02:43:28 5 Q. So how did you come up with this Email address?

6 A. We sat down and made it so that he wouldn't have any  
7 of my personal information if it didn't work out.

8 Q. Okay. So when you say we, who are you referring to?

9 A. Me and Erick.

02:43:42 10 Q. Okay.

11 MS. MAGNONE: Your Honor, may I have a moment?

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 BY MS. MAGNONE:

14 Q. Thank you, Jasmine.

02:43:54 15 MS. MAGNONE: No further questions, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

17 Just a moment. The other attorneys might have  
18 questions.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION OF JASMINE BEVANY

02:44:05 20 BY MR. DOUGHTEN:

21 Q. Good morning, Jasmine?

22 A. Good morning.

23 Q. We've spoken before, correct?

24 A. Yes.

02:44:08 25 Q. I just have a few extra questions, I guess.

1 Now, how long prior to this time in 2015, how long had  
2 you known Erick?

3 A. Since 2011 -- I knew him before that, but never talked  
4 to him before.

02:44:27 5 Q. When did he become your stepdad? Do you remember  
6 about which time?

7 A. The end of 2011.

8 Q. And when you talked about the courting process, that  
9 isn't unusual for your beliefs, is it?

02:44:43 10 A. No.

11 Q. And, in fact, as a younger woman, you knew there would  
12 come a time that you would begin this process, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you spoke to Mr. Hendricks about this process,  
02:44:54 15 correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you told him that you would be interested in  
18 meeting some people when you became of age which is around  
19 21, correct?

02:45:01 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. In fact, didn't he provide you with other names also  
22 of people you might be interested in?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And it was left up to you to who you would like or not  
02:45:12 25 like, correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And if you said, "You know what, I'm kind of an  
3 independent woman. I'm really not interested in being a  
4 housewife," he didn't give you a hard time about that, did  
02:45:23 5 he?

6 A. No.

7 Q. And, in fact, isn't it true that you wanted to finish  
8 your education and develop individually before would you  
9 settle down and have children; isn't that correct?

02:45:32 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Just like many of us, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And this is kind of a modern Muslim woman, correct?

14 A. Yes.

02:45:40 15 Q. So just to be clear, at all times, he was going to  
16 respect your choices as to who you would court or date and  
17 not date, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And he never tried to influence you who to end up with  
02:45:53 20 ultimately?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay?

23 MR. DOUGHTEN: One second, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Yes.

02:46:18 25 BY MR. DOUGHTEN:

1 Q. Just one more area.

2 In the time that you knew Erick, you would discuss the  
3 religion of Islam, correct?

4 A. Yes.

02:46:29 5 Q. And in your discussions with him, did he ever espouse  
6 or talk about any violent beliefs of Islam?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. DOUGHTEN: No further questions, Your Honor.

02:46:42 10 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

11 Anything else? Any redirect of this witness?

12 MS. MAGNONE: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, ma'am. You  
14 may step down.

02:46:49 15 Counsel, you may call your next witness.

16 MR. SHEPHERD: The government calls Stanley Kent,  
17 Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Thank you. Sir, if you would  
19 approach the witness stand over here to my right.

02:47:32 20 Please remain standing, sir, while I administer the  
21 oath or affirmation.

22 STANLEY KENT,

23 of lawful age, a witness called by the United States,

24 being first duly placed under oath, was examined

02:47:45 25 and testified as follows:

1 THE COURT: All right. Be seated in the witness  
2 stand, if you would, sir.

3 Just a few brief instructions.

4 Please wait until the attorneys complete their  
02:47:55 5 questions before you begin to respond. It's difficult for  
6 the listeners and the court reporters who must transcribe  
7 your answers.

8 If there is an objection to any question, do not  
9 answer the question until I rule on the objection. Of  
02:48:07 10 course if I say sustained, you will not answer the question.

11 Thank you for your cooperation.

12 Counsel, you may inquire.

13 MR. SHEPHERD: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION OF STANLEY KENT

02:48:17 15 BY MR. SHEPHERD:

16 Q. Would you please state your full name for the record?

17 A. Stanley Jason Kent.

18 Q. And could you tell your last name, please?

19 A. K-E-N-T.

02:48:25 20 Q. Sir, where are you from?

21 A. Atlanta, Georgia.

22 Q. And what did you do for a living town do?

23 A. I work as a security consultant for Delta Global  
24 Services.

02:48:35 25 Q. What does that mean?

1 A. Delta Global Services is a subsidiary of Delta  
2 Airlines and I basically advice Delta Airlines on security  
3 matters -- in reference to the airline industry.

4 Q. What did you do before that?

02:48:49 5 A. I was a state trooper for the Georgia State patrol.

6 Q. When did you stop being a state trooper?

7 A. October of last year.

8 Q. How long were you a state trooper?

9 A. Fourteen years.

02:49:00 10 Q. And what did you do before that?

11 A. I was a police officer for a county police agency just  
12 northeast of Atlanta in Gwinnett County Police Department.

13 Q. And as a state trooper before you retired -- first,  
14 did you retire from being a state trooper?

02:49:18 15 A. Yes, sir, I did.

16 Q. What were your duties as a state trooper?

17 A. The last ten years of my career, I worked as a  
18 criminal interdiction officer, a canine handler.

19 Q. I want to draw your attention to May 26 of 2015, okay.

02:49:32 20 A. Okay.

21 Q. Were you working that day?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. And on that date did you conduct a traffic stop that  
24 involved an Erick Hendricks?

02:49:40 25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. If you could, describe the circumstances of that stop,  
2 please.

3 A. Received a call, I was working normal patrol that day  
4 and received a call requesting assistance to assist the FBI  
02:49:55 5 in an investigation that they were conducting.

6 Q. Did you receive any details about that investigation?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did you know the subject matter?

9 A. No.

02:50:02 10 Q. Is that the type of call you've received before in  
11 your career?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So typically what do you do if you get a call like  
14 that?

02:50:10 15 A. Typically the agent will call and say, "Hey, look,  
16 we're conducting an investigation. We have a vehicle of  
17 interest, and it may be important to our case." They  
18 typically give a vehicle description and a location.

19 Q. Do you wait to pull that over until you develop your  
02:50:33 20 own independent basis?

21 A. Yes. They don't -- they don't never give us enough  
22 information for that to alone be probable cause, and we  
23 develop our own probable cause. You know, we observe a  
24 traffic violation or something that's unsafe in their  
02:50:52 25 driving habits or something like that.



1 And then based on that probable cause or that reason,  
2 that unsafe action, we conduct a traffic stop.

3 Q. Trooper Kent, on May 26, 2015, what did you observe  
4 involving Erick Hendricks's vehicle?

02:51:08 5 A. After I made contact with the vehicle, I was watching  
6 that vehicle enter into traffic from two major interstates,  
7 285, which is a loop that runs around the perimeter of  
8 Atlanta join with I-20, which is a major east/west route  
9 through the center of the city. It's a rather busy  
02:51:32 10 interaction.

11 And I observed the vehicle that Mr. Hendricks was  
12 driving leave his lane and cut off another vehicle as it was  
13 merging on to the interstate, on to I-20.

14 Q. Is that a traffic violation?

02:51:47 15 A. It is, failure to maintain lane in Georgia.

16 Q. What did you do?

17 A. I conducted a traffic stop on that be vehicle for that  
18 traffic violation.

19 Q. Did you identify the occupants of the car?

02:51:56 20 A. I did.

21 Q. Who was in the car?

22 A. It was a black male driving and a black female  
23 passenger.

24 Q. Did you identify their names?

02:52:05 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What were the names?

2 A. Hendricks was their last name.

3 Q. Do you remember their first names?

4 A. Erick and -- I'm going to mess her name up -- Tyrinda.

02:52:21 5 Q. Did you write a report of this incident?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 Q. Would reviewing that report help with the exact name  
8 of the other person in the car?

9 A. Absolutely.

02:52:31 10 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, may I approach?

11 THE COURT: You may.

12 THE WITNESS: Tyrinda. I was close. Maybe not.  
13 Sorry.

14 THE COURT: It began with a T, right.

02:52:53 15 THE WITNESS: Yeah, yeah.

16 BY MR. SHEPHERD:

17 Q. Trooper Kent, during your time as a state trooper, did  
18 you conduct a lot of traffic stops?

19 A. Yes, sir.

02:53:01 20 Q. Is it reports like this that you write things down so  
21 you can remember them?

22 A. Absolutely. I would be in trouble if I didn't.

23 Q. So the two individuals were in the car. Did you also  
24 run or obtain the license plate for the car.

02:53:22 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Do you remember what that was?

2 A. IPA, maybe 665, South Carolina plate.

3 Q. Did you check to see who that plate came back to?

4 A. Yes.

02:53:35 5 Q. Who did it come back to?

6 A. The female passenger.

7 Q. Did you talk to the male passenger?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. Did you ask him where he was coming from?

02:53:45 10 A. I did.

11 Q. What did he tell you?

12 A. He stated he was coming from Arkansas, small town near  
13 Little Rock.

14 Q. Did he say who lived there?

02:53:56 15 A. His mother.

16 Q. Do you remember the exact city that he said his mother  
17 lived in?

18 A. It's in my report. I don't remember right offhand.

19 Q. Did you also have the address as well in your report?

02:54:07 20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Would reviewing that help you remember?

22 A. Absolutely.

23 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, may I approach again?

24 THE COURT: Yes. Why don't you just leave it up  
02:54:14 25 there in case he needs to refer to it again.

1 THE WITNESS: The exact address was 2317 Linden  
2 Street in Woodson, Arkansas.

3 BY MR. SHEPHERD:

4 Q. If I could pull up Government's Exhibit 69?

02:54:34 5 Do you recognize Government's Exhibit 69?

6 A. Yes, I do.

7 Q. What does this show?

8 A. It's a still frame from my in car video of the traffic  
9 stop on that day with the two occupants of the vehicle in  
02:54:49 10 the location of the traffic stop, as well as the vehicle  
11 with the license plate.

12 Q. And does -- could you just identify the individuals,  
13 please, in the vehicle -- or in the photo?

14 A. Mr. Hendricks is standing on the left side of the  
02:55:05 15 photo and Mrs. Hendricks is standing on the right side.

16 Q. And is this a fair and accurate portrayal of what you  
17 saw on May 26, 2015?

18 A. Yes, sir, it is.

19 Q. During the course of this stop, did you develop a  
02:55:16 20 basis for conducting a search of the vehicle?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. Did you indeed conduct a search of the vehicle?

23 A. Yes, sir, I did.

24 Q. During the course of the search, did you see a  
02:55:29 25 notebook in the vehicle?

1 A. I did.

2 Q. Did anything draw your attention to the notebook?

3 A. It was open, laying between the two seats, front seats  
4 of the vehicle, and on the first page there that I could see  
02:55:43 5 in plain view was license plates and vehicle descriptions,  
6 which I found kind of odd.

7 And like I said, on that page were license plates,  
8 multiple license plates as well as vehicle descriptions of  
9 vehicles matching those license plates.

02:56:02 10 Q. Did you conduct a further examination of the notebook?

11 A. I did.

12 Q. Did you take photographs of the contents of the  
13 notebook?

14 A. Yes, sir, I did.

02:56:09 15 Q. During your examination of the notebook, did you see  
16 any Email addresses listed?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. If I could please pull up Government's Exhibit 70.  
19 Do you recognize Government's Exhibit 70?

02:56:23 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What is this?

22 A. It's one of the pages that was inside of the notebook.

23 Q. And is there an Email address listed?

24 A. Yes, charlesmaydot@gmail.com.

02:56:35 25 Q. And is this a fair and accurate portrayal of the

1 notebook?

2 A. Yes, it is.

3 Q. Or of one of the pages from the notebook?

4 A. One of the pages, yes, sir.

02:56:45 5 Q. Is that as it looked on May 26, 2015?

6 A. Yes.

7 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, I have no further  
8 questions for this witness.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

02:56:54 10 Counsel, you may cross-examine.

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION OF STANLEY KENT

12 BY MR. HARTMAN:

13 Q. Good morning, Mr. Kent.

14 A. Good morning.

02:57:12 15 Q. What was your basis for searching the vehicle?

16 A. I obtained probable cause from a positive alert from  
17 my narcotic canine, Canine Balco.

18 Q. And did you find any narcotics?

19 A. No, sir.

02:57:27 20 Q. So is it normal for you to search other parts of a car  
21 when you're searching for narcotics?

22 A. Yes.

23 It's our practice to search the entire vehicle when  
24 searching for narcotics.

02:57:40 25 Our unit specialized in hidden compartments and

1 aftermarket false compartments installed in vehicles for  
2 trafficking narcotics.

3 Q. And you didn't find any of those on this vehicle,  
4 correct?

02:57:52 5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. Did you take pictures of this notebook because of the  
7 FBI alert that you were given?

8 A. No. I initially started taking pictures because of  
9 the vehicle descriptions and tag numbers inside that  
02:58:04 10 notebook.

11 Q. Okay.

12 MR. HARTMAN: I don't have anything further, Your  
13 Honor -- one second.

14 BY MR. HARTMAN:

02:58:15 15 Q. One other question. You also didn't find any weapons  
16 in the car, correct?

17 A. No weapons, no, sir.

18 Q. Thank you.

19 THE COURT: Thank you. Any redirect of this  
02:58:25 20 witness?

21 MR. SHEPHERD: No, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir. You may  
23 step down.

24 Government's next witness, please.

02:58:36 25 MS. MAGNONE: Yes, Your Honor. I just want to

1 let the Court know that the next witness will be lengthy.  
2 So I know it's a little early for lunch. It's up to the  
3 Court. We're happy to call her.

02:58:48 4 THE COURT: I think it's too early for lunch. So  
5 we'll get started.

6 MS. MAGNONE: Yes, Your Honor, the government  
7 would call Amanda Amaro.

8 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

9 Ma'am, if you would just approach the witness stand  
02:59:13 10 over here to my right. You can go either side of the table.  
11 Doesn't matter.

12 Just please remain standing once you're in the witness  
13 stand. Thank you.

14 AMANDA AMARO,  
02:59:35 15 of lawful age, a witness called by the United States,  
16 being first duly placed under oath, was examined  
17 and testified as follows:

18 THE COURT: All right. Please be seated in the  
19 witness stand. Let me make a few requests, if I may.

02:59:44 20 Would you just listen for a moment.

21 Please wait until the attorneys complete their  
22 questions before you begin to respond. I know sometimes we  
23 can anticipate questions and answers. The court reporters  
24 need to transcribe what you're saying. So it's difficult  
03:00:01 25 when two individuals are speaking at the same time. And



1 it's difficult for the listeners as well.

2 If there is any objection to a question, if I sustain  
3 the objection, you will not answer the question. Just wait  
4 until I rule on the objecting before you begin to respond.

03:00:14 5 All right?

6 THE WITNESS: All right.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 Counsel, you may inquire.

9 MS. MAGNONE: Thank you, Your Honor.

03:00:18 10 DIRECT EXAMINATION OF AMANDA AMARO

11 BY MS. MAGNONE:

12 Q. Can you please tell us what your full name is and  
13 please spell your last name for the court reporter?

14 A. Yes. My name is Amanda Amaro. And that's A-M-A-R-O.

03:00:27 15 Q. And where do you live, Ms. Amaro?

16 A. Shreveport, Louisiana.

17 Q. Who do you live with?

18 A. With my mom and two children.

19 Q. And how old are your children?

03:00:38 20 A. Six and eight now.

21 Q. And are you married, Ms. Amaro?

22 A. Yes, but separated.

23 Q. Where does your husband live?

24 A. Oklahoma.

03:00:46 25 Q. And how long have you been separate?

1 A. A couple of years now, two years now to be fully --

2 Q. So since 2016?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. And has he been back to Louisiana since 2016.

03:01:01 5 A. No, ma'am.

6 Q. I would like to start out today by talking to you  
7 about various social media accounts that you've used in the  
8 past.

9 Have you ever used Twitter?

03:01:08 10 A. Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. And when did you start using Twitter?

12 A. In 2014.

13 Q. Why did you start using Twitter in 2014?

14 A. At that time, it was after I had reverted and I was  
03:01:21 15 just looking through different news -- I had followed a news  
16 article and was using it for more news information.

17 Q. So you just used a term "reverted." What does  
18 reverted mean?

19 A. Reverted means -- as a Muslim, we believe that you're  
03:01:34 20 born a Muslim, and we believe that instead of converting  
21 that you're going back to the way.

22 Q. So, in essence, in 2014 you became a Muslim?

23 A. Well, in 2013 to be exact.

24 Q. Sorry. 2013 you became a Muslim. And then you said  
03:01:50 25 you started doing some research online that eventually led

1 to Twitter; is that correct?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. So let's talk about the research that you officially  
4 did online. What were you looking for in 2013?

03:02:01 5 A. Initially I was learning about Islam and how to pray  
6 and the basics about it, just a little bit of everything  
7 about it.

8 Q. And was there any particular reason why you wanted to  
9 revert to Islam?

03:02:17 10 A. I was looking for something to give me faith. I was  
11 just looking for meaning in my life, a purpose.

12 Q. Okay. Do you still consider yourself to be a revert?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. And do you still consider yourself to be a Muslim?

03:02:33 15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. So you said you started doing research online and then  
17 you moved to Twitter.

18 When in 2014 did you move to Twitter?

19 A. It was in April.

03:02:44 20 Q. And what was your first handle or name on Twitter?

21 A. It was my last name, amaro877.

22 Q. And did you hold yourself out on Twitter as a revert?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. And how did you do that? What does -- how did people  
03:03:02 25 know that you were a revert?

1 A. I actually posted it or wrote it on the profile.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I was very open and put that information on there.

4 Q. And why did you do that?

03:03:10 5 A. For me at the time I was just open and new. It was  
6 just new to me, the whole -- everything was new to me. I  
7 was really open.

8 Q. When you say it was all new to you, what are you  
9 referring to exactly?

03:03:24 10 A. The Twitter itself, I was not really one to use  
11 Twitter. It was a new platform for me.

12 Q. Okay. Because you put that you were a revert on your  
13 profile, did people start to reach out to you on Twitter?

14 A. Yes, people from everywhere.

03:03:41 15 Q. And what sorts of people were reaching out to you?

16 A. Muslims with different views, and lot of them later on  
17 with more extremist views.

18 Q. So you had what we would call maybe moderate Muslims  
19 reaching out to you as well as people with extremist views?

03:04:04 20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. At some point, did you change your Twitter handle from  
22 that amaro877 to something else?

23 A. Yes, ma'am. I was instructed by someone that since I  
24 was a revert now, I should change to an Arabic name. And  
03:04:15 25 they suggested ummzidane because that was the name of my

1 son, and umm means mother.

2 Q. Okay. So we're going to slow down.

3 So can you spell ummzidane for the court reporter?

4 A. Yes, it's U-M-M, and then my son's name, Z-I-D-A-N-E.

03:04:32 5 Q. And up just said umm means mother?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And Zidane is the name of your son?

8 A. Yes, ma'am.

9 Q. And you said someone instructed you to do that?

03:04:43 10 A. Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. Who instructed you to do that?

12 A. The person, I don't know. They were from Indonesia.

13 Q. And why did they instruct you to do that?

14 A. They just said that since I was a revert, that I just  
03:04:54 15 would put a new name out there. I didn't have to identify  
16 with my old self anymore.

17 Q. So this person told you to change your name, and you  
18 changed your name?

19 A. Right.

03:05:03 20 Q. Okay. Now, you mentioned that some of the people that  
21 reached out to you had extremist views, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Would those accounts with extremist views ever be  
24 deleted on Twitter?

03:05:14 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And why would they be deleted?

2 A. Some times it would be just because they weren't  
3 Muslims, but a lot of times it would be because of what they  
4 support.

03:05:24 5 Q. Can you elaborate on that a little bit?

6 A. Like in support of groups like ISIS or the different  
7 various groups.

8 Q. And so if they put support for those groups on  
9 Twitter, Twitter would delete the account?

03:05:38 10 A. Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. And what would users do if their accounts got deleted?

12 A. If the accounts were deleted, they would usually write  
13 their user name out and put something like a hash tag where  
14 everyone could find the hash tag to refined their account,  
03:05:51 15 their new account.

16 Q. And was there ever referred to as a shout-out?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you kind of explain that to us a little bit more?

19 A. A shout-out was a way that everyone could find one  
03:06:03 20 another. Usually they would use certain hash tags, and you  
21 could be able to search that through Twitter and be able to  
22 find all of the accounts.

23 Q. So the accounts that got deleted. Their followers  
24 could find them at a later time?

03:06:21 25 A. Right.

1 Q. Did you participate in these shout-outs?

2 A. Yes. I started following along with everyone. At  
3 first I didn't understand why the accounts were being  
4 deleted. But then I just started following along with  
03:06:30 5 everyone, doing what everyone would do and retweeting.

6 Q. Okay. So other people were doing these shout-outs and  
7 you were following and doing what they were doing?

8 A. Yes, ma'am.

9 Q. Okay. Did you understand that you were potentially  
03:06:43 10 helping those people with extremist views?

11 A. At first I didn't, but later on, then I did. Yes,  
12 ma'am.

13 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with a group known as ISIS or  
14 the Islamic State?

03:06:53 15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. And when did you first learn about ISIS?

17 A. In 2014.

18 Q. And how did you learn about ISIS?

19 A. I seen a news article talking about the World Cup, and  
03:07:04 20 someone was joking about kicking a head like a soccer ball.

21 I had never heard of this group before, so I, through  
22 the news article, it was saying like links to Twitter. So I  
23 followed it to the Twitter to search about them.

24 Q. Okay. So you saw an article online that talked about  
03:07:21 25 kicking a head. And that made you want to learn more about

1 it? Can you --

2 A. That, no. But I just had never -- I was just  
3 familiar -- like just searching -- I never heard of the  
4 group before.

03:07:32 5 Q. Okay.

6 A. So I just was trying to see what everyone was talking  
7 about online.

8 Q. I understand.

9 So you first learned about it through that article.

03:07:40 10 And then did you start following people that supported ISIS?

11 A. At first I didn't know who was who. I just was  
12 following to some random accounts. And then later on I did  
13 understand that they were followers of that group and other  
14 groups.

03:07:55 15 Q. And you still chose to follow them, correct?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. And at times did you hold yourself out to be an ISIS  
18 sympathizer or supporter?

19 A. Later on in time I did, yes, ma'am.

03:08:06 20 Q. And would you use the same words or phrases that ISIS  
21 supporters or sympathizers often would use?

22 A. I copied just about everything everyone would use. I  
23 learned about everything from the Twitter platform mostly.

24 Q. So some of those people that you were following, you  
03:08:23 25 would copy what they were doing and would you do it



1       yourself?

2       A.       Yes, ma'am.

3       Q.       Okay. I would like to talk to you now about one  
4       particular user that reached out to you in the spring of  
03:08:34 5       2015, okay.

6               Do you recall a Twitter account by the name of  
7       Ummahonelove?

8       A.       Yes, ma'am.

9       Q.       And when did ummahonelove initially contact you?

03:08:45 10      A.       Through Twitter of April of 2015.

11      Q.       And can you tell the jurors about that initial  
12      contact?

13      A.       Initially he was just asking me a little bit about my  
14      background, like how I came to Islam, what made me look into  
03:08:58 15      Islam and a little bit about my life, my background.

16      Q.       Okay. And was this over direct messaging or was this  
17      on the public Twitter?

18      A.       That was actually through the direct messaging, like  
19      initially he had just followed me and like commented  
03:09:13 20      something. And then I followed back. I usually follow  
21      everyone that followed me. So then I can receive messages.

22      Q.       Okay. And you said that he was questioning you about  
23      Islam. What kind of things was he questioning you about?

24      A.       Like which sect do I follow, like Sunni or Shia, and  
03:09:32 25      he was different views, like, where my -- was I in support

1 of ISIS or like that.

2 Q. And did you feel that he was testing you in a way?

3 A. Yes, I felt that he was trying to see if I was a real  
4 Muslim or just someone pretending to be.

03:09:48 5 Q. Okay. In these questions over direct messaging, did  
6 ummahonelove say anything about following you on Twitter?

7 A. Yes, he said he had been watching me from afar for a  
8 while.

9 Q. And had you noticed him online before?

03:10:03 10 A. Not the name, no, ma'am.

11 Q. Okay. Did he ask you whether you were married?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And what did you tell him?

14 A. I told him I was divorced.

03:10:11 15 Q. And at that time were you actually divorced?

16 A. No. Just separated.

17 Q. Was your husband living with you at that time?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Did he ever express an interest in marrying you?

03:10:21 20 A. Yes. He had asked me to be a second wife.

21 Q. So he told you that he was currently married?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did he say how long?

24 A. For about ten years.

03:10:31 25 Q. And did he say how old he was?

1 A. He said he was about ten years older than me.

2 Q. And did he tell you what he looked like?

3 A. The only way that he described himself was saying that  
4 he looked like Lebron James.

03:10:43 5 Q. Did there come a time when he obtained a photograph of  
6 you?

7 A. Yes, later on he brought up a picture from my family  
8 Facebook account. It was a picture of me. It was an older  
9 picture where I was -- do you want me to describe that?

03:11:00 10 Q. We can get to it in a second.

11 Did you send him this photograph?

12 A. No, ma'am.

13 Q. And you said this picture was posted on Facebook,  
14 correct?

03:11:11 15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Were you Facebook friends with this person?

17 A. No, ma'am. I mostly just had family on there.

18 Q. And had you ever been Facebook friends with the person  
19 that was ummahonelove?

03:11:20 20 A. No, ma'am, not that I'm aware of.

21 Q. Did he also figure out where you lived from Facebook?

22 A. Yes, from my Facebook, he brought up about my  
23 location, saying that he lived -- had a place not far from  
24 me and that he traveled through there.

03:11:35 25 And the way that I assumed he was able to obtain that

1 was because I had a check-in on my Facebook where I went to  
2 a gym a couple years before. And at the gym, it pulls up  
3 your location, like where you check in, from the GPS.

4 Q. Okay. Slow down a little bit.

03:11:51 5 So you said that you had checked in on Facebook, what  
6 does that mean?

7 A. When you check in, you sign in and it's like a GPS  
8 pulls up where you are.

9 Q. And where was this gym located?

03:12:06 10 A. Like five minutes from my home.

11 Q. So it was in -- were you living in Shreveport,  
12 Louisiana at that time?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. So the gym was in Shreveport and he you told you  
03:12:19 15 that -- can you tell us again what he said in response this  
16 that?

17 A. He said that he had land near me and that he traveled  
18 there often.

19 Q. Okay. Did you ever tell him where you lived?

03:12:28 20 A. Not that I remember, no, ma'am.

21 Q. Did that concern you at all that he knew where you  
22 lived?

23 A. Yes. It was very unsettling. It was scary because  
24 you don't know who this person is and they're just pulling  
03:12:41 25 up your information and they've got your, like your family

1 account, pulling up your pictures and saying that they were  
2 close to you and you don't know that -- I mean, I don't  
3 remember ever giving him that information.

4 Q. And what exactly did he say about this land?

03:12:55 5 A. He said that he was planning to move there and to  
6 build on that land.

7 Q. And did he say how far that land was from you?

8 A. He said about 45 minutes away.

9 Q. Not everyone knows exactly where Shreveport is, is  
03:13:12 10 Texas about 45 minutes act?

11 A. Yes, ma'am, Texas, Texarkana and Arkansas.

12 Q. So Texas and Arkansas are both within 45 minutes of  
13 Shreveport?

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

03:13:23 15 Q. Did he say anything about traveling to that area?

16 A. He said that he traveled there and he had come through  
17 there not too long ago, that he went through there a lot.

18 Q. So let's go back to that picture. You were going to  
19 tell us about it.

03:13:34 20 Can you describe what was in the picture?

21 A. Yes. In the picture, it was a picture I was wearing a  
22 sweatshirt and holding a gun. It was one of my husband's  
23 uncle's. He worked at a security, so he had them for  
24 protection.

03:13:49 25 And we had just posed with them. That was the first

1 time I ever actually really held a gun in my life.

2 Q. Okay so were you or are you a gun owner?

3 A. No, ma'am.

4 Q. Do you shoot guns for fun or for hunting?

03:14:01 5 A. No, ma'am.

6 Q. And so why were you just holding the gun, if you could  
7 tell us again?

8 A. We were just posing just to look cool or whatever. It  
9 was years ago.

03:14:10 10 Q. Okay. When was the picture taken?

11 A. 2008.

12 Q. Okay. Have you held a gun since that day in 2008?

13 A. No, ma'am.

14 Q. Did the user of ummahloveone ask you if you owned any  
03:14:22 15 guns?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And what did you tell him?

18 A. With him I told him I did. And I searched guns on  
19 Google and gave him a couple names.

03:14:30 20 Q. And why did you do that?

21 A. Just to appear like I was maybe just cooler. I don't  
22 know.

23 Q. Okay. Did he say whether or not he had guns?

24 A. Yes, he listed off about four or five of them. I  
03:14:45 25 don't remember them because I'm not very good with them.

1 Q. Okay. So let's switch gears for a second.

2 Did there come a time when this user, ummahonelove,  
3 asked to you move from Twitter to a more secure social media  
4 platform?

03:15:00 5 A. Yes. He told me it would be better to go to something  
6 more secure. And he suggested Wickr platform.

7 Q. And did he say why Wickr was a good platform?

8 A. That it was more private and no one could really know  
9 who your and see what you're saying.

03:15:15 10 Q. Had you used Wickr prior to that?

11 A. No, ma'am.

12 Q. When you spoke on Wickr, did he ever talk to you about  
13 riots?

14 A. Yes, there was a time that he suggested that him and a  
03:15:28 15 few people were traveling up to where the big riots were  
16 going on.

17 Q. Did he invite you to join them?

18 A. Yes, he asked me if I would like to go with them. And  
19 I said no.

03:15:39 20 Q. And where were they going, do you know?

21 A. Baltimore, Maryland.

22 Q. Did he say anything about recruiting or anything in  
23 Baltimore?

24 A. Yes, he said that he wanted to give da wah to people  
03:15:52 25 up there because he felt that there would be a lot of people

1 from Black Lives movement from gangs, and they wanted to  
2 give da wah to them and he felt it would be beneficial  
3 because they had weapons already.

03:16:08 4 Q. Now, you used the word da wah. Can you spell that for  
5 the court reporter?

6 A. Yes, ma'am, it's D-A-W-A-H.

7 Q. And what does that mean?

8 A. Gift of da wah means to convey the message of Islam.

03:16:17 9 Q. Did he ever talk to you about building a group of  
10 people?

11 A. Yes. There was a time he suggested that he wanted to  
12 build within America a group. And he said -- and I seemed,  
13 from my assumption, I meant -- I got that he meant  
14 mujahideen fighters.

03:16:31 15 Q. And what does mujahideen mean?

16 A. They are fighters. It's the Arabic term for fighters.

17 Q. Did he ever mention any particular groups to you?

18 A. No, I mean, he had talked a lot about ISIS, of course,  
19 because he had mentioned the leader. But from what I got,  
03:16:49 20 that he just wanted to build like an extension of it in  
21 America.

22 Q. An extension of ISIS in America?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. And you said he brought up the leader. Who's that?

03:16:57 25 A. That would be Abu Bakr Albaghadi.



1 Q. And I'm sorry to make you do this, but can you please  
2 spell that for the court reporter?

3 A. Yes, A-B-U, B-A-K-R, A-L-B-A-G-H-A-D-I.

4 I think that's it.

03:17:15 5 Q. Okay. Did he ever use the term "Caliph" of caliphate  
6 with you?

7 A. There was a time he used caliph and Alumni Mim, which  
8 is the Arabic term for the leader of the -- I don't know how  
9 to explain that, the leaders of the Islamic State.

03:17:32 10 Q. Okay. Can you spell -- can you spell that word for  
11 us?

12 A. A-L-M-U-M-I, M-I-M -- sorry. I don't remember  
13 exactly.

14 Q. Okay. That's okay.

03:17:48 15 So he talked about the caliph. He talked about the  
16 leader. Do you remember any specifics about those things?

17 A. I don't really remember much about it.

18 Q. Okay. Did he ever ask you if you knew anybody that  
19 wanted to join him?

03:18:03 20 A. Yes. He had said that he had spoken to two people  
21 before, but they didn't seem interested. And he asked me if  
22 I knew anybody that might want to join.

23 Q. Okay. Did he ask if you knew anybody overseas?

24 A. Yes.

03:18:16 25 Q. And how did you respond to that?

1 A. I said that I knew someone in Syria.

2 Q. Did you actually no somebody in Syria?

3 A. Not personally, no.

4 Q. Okay. So you mentioned that you followed a lot of  
03:18:31 5 people and they followed you.

6 Had you ever had any conversations online with other  
7 people talking about getting a group, getting land,  
8 training, things like that?

9 A. No, ma'am.

03:18:42 10 Q. Or was this -- sorry. Go ahead.

11 A. Oh. No, ma'am.

12 Q. So was this unusual?

13 A. It was very. It was shocking and different.

14 Q. And how did that make you feel?

03:18:51 15 A. Very uncomfortable because for me I was just following  
16 online, and then that just seemed like all to real.

17 Q. Okay. So in your communications over Wickr, did he  
18 use some sort of functionality that would automatically  
19 delete his communications with you?

03:19:10 20 A. Yes, ma'am. He set a timer. And then a timer is  
21 when -- where when one person reads the message, then it  
22 automatically deletes it after.

23 Q. And what would he set his timer to?

24 A. Usually 15 seconds to a minute.

03:19:25 25 Q. Okay. Did you ask you to put yours on a timer as

1 well?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And did you?

4 A. I believe that I did a couple times.

03:19:31 5 Q. So do you have any records of these communications,  
6 any screen shots?

7 A. No, ma'am, because all was deleted and he also deleted  
8 his accounts and created new ones.

9 Q. Okay. What happens if you screen shot on Wickr even  
03:19:48 10 if you get into that 15 seconds?

11 A. If you took a screen shot, that person would know that  
12 you took it and they would be suspicious of you.

13 Q. Okay. So I want to ask you now, was there a time that  
14 this individual, this ummahonelove person asked you to speak  
03:20:04 15 to his wife, or at least somebody who he said was his wife?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. Okay. And what did that person direct you to do?

18 A. Later on the person that was supposed to be his wife  
19 directed me to go to a website and to listen to some  
03:20:18 20 speakers, Islamic speakers.

21 Q. And what was the name of that website?

22 A. Kalamullah.

23 Q. And can you spell that, please --

24 A. K A -- I don't remember the exact spelling.

03:20:29 25 K-A-L-L-A-M-U-L-L-A-H, I believe.

1 Q. Okay. And what was your understanding at the time of  
2 the purpose of that website or what that website was?

3 A. That website was, it just had different speakers on it  
4 for you to listen to them and get their view.

03:20:46 5 And do you want me to go into more?

6 Q. I'll ask you a couple questions.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. Did you go to the website?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

03:20:52 10 Q. And did you listen to any lectures on the website?

11 A. Yes. I listened to Khalid Yassin.

12 Q. Can you spell that, please?

13 A. Yes. K-H-A-L-I-D, and then Y-A-S-S-I-N.

14 Q. And did you tell this person that you were speaking to  
03:21:07 15 that you listened to Khalid Yassin?

16 A. Yes, I told her that I had listened to him and that I  
17 really liked his way of speaking, like the way he presented  
18 himself.

19 Q. And how did this person respond that?

03:21:20 20 A. She said that he wasn't really someone to listen to.

21 He was more -- he was a coconut and that coconut means they  
22 are more moderate view. Then she suggested to listen to  
23 Anwar Al-Awlaki.

24 Q. And did you listen to Anwar Al-Awlaki?

03:21:36 25 A. I listened to about 40 minutes, I believe, of one.

1 Q. And how did those lectures with Anwar Al-Awlaki  
2 compare to the first ones that you listened to, Khalid  
3 Yassin?

4 A. They were definitely more out there and more extreme.

03:21:50 5 Q. And can you say for certain it was a woman that you  
6 were speaking to?

7 A. I cannot. For me I had the feeling that I thought it  
8 was him just trying to test me on how I would respond.

9 Q. Okay. So now I want to turn your attention to May of  
03:22:03 10 2015.

11 Did there come a time that you learned about a  
12 terrorist attack in Garland, Texas?

13 A. Yes, ma'am. I came to the Twitter platform on an  
14 evening. I don't remember the date. But it was around  
03:22:15 15 6:30, 6:00 p.m., I believe, and they brought up -- there was  
16 different news and they were saying an attack had happened  
17 and that two men were responsible.

18 Q. Okay. Do you recall receiving a message from this  
19 person that had been ummahonelove regarding that attack?

03:22:34 20 A. Yes, hours later on the next day. It was later on to  
21 the night. He came and messaged me. "Did you see what our  
22 brothers did?"

23 Q. Okay. Did he say anything else in that initial  
24 contact?

03:22:44 25 A. I don't remember if it was that day or the next. He

1 started saying that the brothers that he -- they were a  
2 friend of his. And later on he said he had a message from  
3 them.

03:23:00 4 Q. Okay. You say they were a friend. Did he describe  
5 what kind of friends they were?

6 A. No. He just said they were really close.

7 Q. Okay. And we'll get back to the message in a second.

8 But in those initial communications, what if anything  
9 did ummahonelove say about America changing after the  
03:23:16 10 attack?

11 A. That it was going to be a new America, and new changes  
12 were coming to America.

13 Q. In what sense?

14 A. I felt that he meant that there would be building and  
03:23:27 15 things might be under a more Islamic view.

16 Q. In America?

17 A. Right.

18 Q. Okay. And what was his general demeanor like in  
19 that -- those -- the day or days after the attack?

03:23:41 20 A. He was pretty happy, and seemed like he was just  
21 really excited to start something, wanted to make a name for  
22 himself, is what I got.

23 Q. Okay. So you said he said there was a message. Did  
24 there come a time when ummahonelove asked to you post  
03:23:57 25 something online for him?

1 A. Yes. He said that he wanted to get the brother's  
2 letter out. And he said that he would give it to me in  
3 three paragraphs over different days.

4 Q. Okay. Let's slow down.

03:24:09

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. So he sent you a message about the brother's letter.  
7 How did you interpret that? Who was the author of  
8 that letter?

03:24:23

9 A. At the time I thought that part of it was him, I  
10 wasn't really sure that it was the other person. I just  
11 fell like it was him wanting to put it out there.

12 But the way he explained it was like that part of it  
13 was from one of the boys.

14 Q. That was one of the deceased attackers?

03:24:36

15 A. Right.

16 Q. Okay. So how long, if you remember, after the Garland  
17 attack, was he sending you this information?

18 A. It seemed like it was just a day or so right after.  
19 It was not long.

03:24:46

20 Q. Okay. And how did he send you this information?

21 A. He would write it out in paragraphs and told me to  
22 copy everything exactly. And he instructed me to paste it  
23 on to the justpasteit and he told me to put it all like in  
24 one letter together. It was about three paragraphs.

03:25:03

25 Q. Okay. So backing up a little bit. The three

1 paragraphs that he sent to you individually, what platform  
2 did he send those to you on?

3 A. He sent those on Wickr.

4 Q. Okay. And then he told you to post them in one letter  
03:25:18 5 form on justpasteit; is that correct?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. And what was justpasteit?

8 A. Justpasteit is a website, where it's kind of like  
9 having a notepad where you can just post pictures or notes  
03:25:29 10 and share them.

11 Q. So did you post this letter or these paragraphs for  
12 him?

13 A. Yes, exactly as he wrote them.

14 Q. Why would you do that for him?

03:25:37 15 A. I felt that I had to, like very pressured. And I  
16 don't know who this person is. They know my location, who I  
17 am. I don't know who they knew. So it was just very  
18 uneasy. I just felt like I had to.

19 Q. Okay. At some point did you tell someone else that  
03:25:53 20 you had posted this for another person?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. Can we please bring up Government Exhibit 49,  
23 page 6?

24 And starting with "Sisters." Right here. Can you  
03:26:07 25 just enlarge this section here?



1 Just starting with "Sisters."

2 Do you recognize this communication, Ms. Amaro?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. Okay. And what platform are we looking at here?

03:26:34 5 A. That looks like the Surespot platform.

6 Q. And which one of these -- so there's some lines that  
7 have a blue line next to that. Is that you?

8 And you can take your time to read it.

9 A. Yes. Yes, ma'am.

03:26:49 10 Q. Okay. So did you have the opportunity to look at  
11 these prior to your testimony today?

12 A. No, ma'am.

13 Q. Okay. Can you explain what's happening in the  
14 conversation here in the middle of the page?

03:27:01 15 A. Yes. In it this, I am speaking to the man who -- he  
16 believed -- I believed to be in Syria. And I was speaking  
17 to him explaining to him about what happened. I was scared  
18 and explaining to him this. And he was always someone who  
19 seemed like very protective of me.

03:27:20 20 Q. Okay. Did you come to learn that this person wasn't  
21 timely in Syria?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. At a later date?

24 A. Yes.

03:27:26 25 Q. Okay. Can we go to page 9 of Exhibit 9?

1 And starting with "He is gone from Twitter." If you  
2 could just highlight her messages, please.

3 Can you take a minute to review this, Ms. Amaro?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

03:28:01 5 Q. And what are you talking about here?

6 A. Here I'm explaining to him -- I'm explaining to him  
7 about the letter, about this guy. Oh, yes. I'm explaining  
8 to him about who wrote the contents of the letter and how he  
9 gave it to me.

03:28:20 10 Q. And what was this Surespot's user at this point?

11 A. His Surespot, itsmehere.

12 Q. And where did he claim to live?

13 A. He claim to live up north, but he claimed to also  
14 travel a lot to Texas.

03:28:32 15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Or that area around there.

17 Q. And can we go to page 10?

18 And can we do from a message from him down.

19 Can you take a minute to review this, please, Ms.

03:28:49 20 Amaro?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. So your messages start with the word "Yes," correct?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. The second line that says, "His message he said was  
03:29:01 25 your local Amir has your back, hold tight, keep your trust

1 in Allah and tie your camels."

2 What does tie your camels mean?

3 A. It means to, from what I get, it means to use your  
4 brain also.

03:29:14 5 Q. Okay. Can you explain, like what -- how you would use  
6 that advice in the real world?

7 A. I would tell someone -- I'm trying to think  
8 how -- to -- like for me, an example I would give someone is  
9 to trust in God but to -- it's not a term I use a lot. But  
03:29:38 10 to also use your brain in what you're doing, to be aware.

11 Q. I understand.

12 So here too, you're also referring to a Twitter  
13 account. That's the Twitter account?

14 A. Oneummahlove.

03:29:51 15 Q. And is that a variation of ummahonelove?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. Okay. You can take that down.

18 Thank you.

19 Can we bring up Exhibit 52, please.

03:30:02 20 All right. Ms. Amaro, do you recognize this document?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. And what is it?

23 A. That's the letter that he gave to me over three  
24 paragraphs.

03:30:12 25 Q. And this is -- is this the document you posted on

1 justpasteit?

2 A. Yes, ma'am.

3 Q. I see the title of the document is "The New Era."

4 Where did that come from?

03:30:23 5 A. He told me that he wanted it to be known -- to put out  
6 there for it to be known that it was going to be a new  
7 America and new things were coming. So he said put  
8 something to make it known to everyone. So I came up with  
9 the title.

03:30:37 10 Q. So you were the person who actually came up with the  
11 title?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. But he asked you to create a title; is that correct?

14 A. Right.

03:30:44 15 Q. Did there come a time when the author of this document  
16 wanted to make some changes?

17 A. Yes, there was a time after I had wrote it, he wanted  
18 to remove some information.

19 Q. And do you remember what those changes were?

03:30:58 20 A. Yes. He wanted to remove the information about how  
21 many years the boys who participated had been Muslims and  
22 also he wanted me to insert the flag, that the Islamic State  
23 use.

24 Q. Okay. Can we go to Government Exhibit 53, please?

03:31:16 25 Do you recognize this document?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. And what is it?

3 A. That's the updated message after removing and placing  
4 the flag.

03:31:25 5 Q. Okay. So this is the document -- and did you post  
6 this document on behalf of ummahonelove?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. And is this the flag that you were referring to?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

03:31:35 10 Q. Where did you get that?

11 A. He said to use the flag that they always use, that  
12 ISIS always uses in their platform and for justpasteit. So  
13 I down loaded it from Google and pasted it.

14 Q. Can we go to back to Exhibit 52 and zoom in on the  
03:31:58 15 third paragraph.

16 So the last sentence there starting with the  
17 "Disbelievers," can you read us that sentence, please?

18 A. Yes. "The disbelievers who shot our brothers in  
19 Arizona, a new Muslim of two years and another of 11 years."

03:32:11 20 Do you want me to go on?

21 Q. No, that's okay. Is that the information he requested  
22 you change?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. Can we go back to Exhibit 53, please?

03:32:19 25 And can we please zoom in on the third paragraph there

1 as well?

2 So page 2.

3 So can you read us the last sentence there?

03:32:35 4 A. "The disbelievers who shot our brothers think that you  
5 killed someone untrained, nay, they gave you their bodies in  
6 plain view because we were watching."

7 Q. So that information regarding the brothers and how  
8 long they had been Muslims was removed; is that correct?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

03:32:49 10 Q. Okay.

11 You can take that down.

12 So as you're communicating with this person and making  
13 these changes, did it appear to you -- was there anything  
14 about that that made you think that maybe he was the author?  
03:33:03 15 Or did you still believe that it was one of the deceased  
16 gunmen?

17 A. For me later on, when I started thinking about it, I  
18 started thinking maybe it was just him really wanting to put  
19 himself out there and get recognition.

03:33:15 20 Q. Okay. And I'm going to go back to Exhibit 49, please,  
21 page 9.

22 So these were the initial texts that we were looking  
23 at. Can you tell us what date these texts took place?

24 A. You mean the ones that are written on here?

03:33:38 25 Q. Right. So he is gone from Twitter and then you talk

1 about his Surespot name?

2 A. Oh, okay.

3 Q. What date is that?

4 A. May 5.

03:33:47 5 Q. Is that what that says?

6 A. Okay. May 6. Yes, I told him about it the day after  
7 that my picture had been put out there.

8 Q. Okay. And we'll get to that in a minute. But this  
9 was after you had posted the initial documents for the

03:34:08 10 ummahone?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. Is that correct?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. So you posted the link to justpasteit. Did you ever  
03:34:20 15 delete the post?

16 A. Yes, I deleted it two times. And the two times  
17 were -- the first two times were right together. I just  
18 felt very uneasy and uncomfortable with the contents. And I  
19 deleted it.

03:34:33 20 And then after the second time of deleting it, he  
21 messaged me and asked why did I take it down, that it needed  
22 to be put up there.

23 Q. Okay. We're going to slow down a little bit.

24 So, if I understand you correctly, you posted it. You  
03:34:48 25 took it down. And then you posted it again?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. So that first time, why did you take it down?

3 A. Both of the first and the second time I felt like very  
4 uncomfortable. I didn't like what was in it and I just  
03:35:00 5 didn't feel it was right to put up there.

6 Q. What didn't you like that was in it?

7 A. I didn't like the contents of it, especially when it  
8 was talking about that there was soldiers all over and that  
9 any attack could happen at any time. I was just very uneasy  
03:35:17 10 and very uncomfortable.

11 Q. So you put it up, took it up, put it up, took it down?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. And the person who was ummahonelove reached out to  
14 you; is that correct?

03:35:25 15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. And what did he say to you?

17 A. He said why did I take it down. It needed to be put  
18 up there, that it needed to be put back up there  
19 immediately.

03:35:33 20 Q. And did he explain why?

21 A. He said that their message needs to get out and we  
22 don't want to be forgotten.

23 And then there was a time where he gave me user names  
24 to tag into the post.

03:35:46 25 Q. Okay. And I'll ask you about that in a minute.



1           So when you -- after he told you that it had to go  
2 back up, did you put it back um?

3       A.     Yes. I felt scared, like I had to, just very  
4 pressured. The whole situation was just very uneasy.

03:36:01 5       Q.     And he told you, you just mentioned, that he asked you  
6 to tag some people; is that correct?

7       A.     Yes, he gave me about 13 user names. He said to tag  
8 them into the posts. He wanted because there were people  
9 who had a big following. And some of them, I guess, claimed  
03:36:15 10 to be over in Syria. And he wanted them to know, to get the  
11 message.

12       Q.     Can you explain to us this concept of tagging, just  
13 for those of us that are not as familiar?

14       A.     Yes, on tagging, if you're writing a post or posting a  
03:36:29 15 link, you can just type in user names, like you type "at."  
16 And then user names, and it will bring up the like in a  
17 mentioning.

18       Q.     Okay. So they'll get some kind of message that  
19 indicates that they were tagged in a post; is that correct?

03:36:45 20       A.     Right, yes, ma'am.

21       Q.     At any point, did he ask you to send the link to any  
22 prominent known ISIS supporters?

23       A.     Yes, he wanted it to go to Abu Hussain so he asked me  
24 to message Abu Hussain.

03:37:02 25       Q.     And Abu Hussain is A-B-U, H-U-S-S-A-I-N. Is that

1 correct?

2 A. Yes, ma'am.

3 Q. Did Abu Hussain have another name?

4 A. Yes, Junaid Hussain.

03:37:15 5 Q. And who was Junaid Hussain?

6 A. From what I read and searched online, he was a fighter  
7 in Syria and the one who started the cyber caliphate.

8 Q. And was there anybody else?

9 A. Yes, his wife, Umm Hussain.

03:37:29 10 Q. And Umm is U-M-M?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. Hussain, H-U-S-S-A-I-N?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. And did she go by any other names?

03:37:38 15 A. Yes, Sally Jones.

16 Q. And as far as you knew, who was she, other than his  
17 wife?

18 A. I believe that she was a fighter with him, but she,  
19 from where she came from, she was a former singer of a  
03:37:49 20 group.

21 Q. Okay. And did you tag these people that he requested  
22 you to tag?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. And did either of them respond to you?

03:37:58 25 A. Later on, I messaged -- he instructed that I should

1 message her because nobody was really responding. So I  
2 messaged the Umm Hussain on Twitter.

3 Q. So her being Umm Hussain or Sally Jones?

4 A. Correct.

03:38:16 5 Q. And you said you messaged her, so you sent her a  
6 direct message?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. Had you messaged her before?

9 A. No, ma'am.

03:38:22 10 Q. Did she respond to your message?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. What was her response?

13 A. She seemed pleased with the message itself. But she  
14 also seemed like scared for me to post it. And instructed  
03:38:32 15 me later on that if I was going to post information to use a  
16 VPN.

17 Q. What is a VPN.

18 A. A VPN is a way to disguise your location.

19 Q. Was that the end of your communication with this  
03:38:47 20 woman?

21 A. Yes, just basically speaking about that and she was  
22 saying that she didn't think it was the boy who participated  
23 who wrote it. That she also, as well, thought it was he to  
24 wrote the letter.

03:38:59 25 Q. He being who?

1 A. The oneummah, the one that gave the information.

2 Q. Okay. When was your last communication with  
3 ummahonelove?

4 A. My last communication was on May 5, the day that I  
03:39:12 5 last posted that, like an hour after posting that, someone  
6 saw that it came from my account and had followed somehow  
7 and posted a picture of me. And he messaged me, and I said,  
8 "Do you think anyone is going to come for me over this?"  
9 And he said, "Yes, I do."

03:39:29 10 Q. Okay. So I want to back you up a little bit.

11 So somebody figured out that you posted the link; is  
12 that correct?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. And that person posted a picture of you as the person  
03:39:41 15 that posted the link?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. So at that point you reached out to the oneummahlove;  
18 is that correct?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

03:39:50 20 Q. And what did you tell him?

21 A. I told him that they had put my picture up, that I was  
22 scared. And he said that -- I said -- I asked him, "Do you  
23 think they're going to come for me?" And he said, "Yes, I  
24 do."

03:40:03 25 Do you want me to go further into that?

1 Q. Well, did he say anything else?

2 A. Yes. He said that if I had a way, he had land up  
3 north that I could go there, that I should try to go there.

4 Do you want me to go through like all of it?

03:40:17 5 Q. If there is anything else that he said in response to  
6 that, question, please tell us.

7 A. I said I didn't have any money, and I wasn't looking  
8 to travel.

9 He said he didn't -- he said he didn't have any money.  
03:40:30 10 And I said I wasn't asking for any money and I wasn't  
11 looking to travel.

12 And then he said just get your guns and be prepared to  
13 fight them at home.

14 And he said, when they come be prepared to fight them  
03:40:41 15 to the death and join your brothers in jannah.

16 Q. And what is jannah?

17 A. Arabic for heaven.

18 Q. And how do you spell that?

19 A. J-A-N-N-A-H.

03:40:50 20 Q. Can we turn to Government Exhibit 44, please.

21 Can you just make this box a little bigger.

22 Ms. Amaro, do you see where it says "go to a sis page  
23 on Twitter ummzidane"?

24 A. Oh, yes. Yes, ma'am.

03:41:12 25 Q. And is this your Twitter name, ummzidane?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. Can we turn to page 3 of Exhibit 44, please.

3 Is this your Twitter page from May 5, 2015?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

03:41:29 5 Q. And is that justpasteit link the link to the New Era  
6 document?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. And can you explain why it says anonymous<sup>90</sup>?

9 A. Yes. There was different times, like when I had the  
03:41:46 10 first original form of the justpasteit, and then I made the  
11 corrections, I redid it again.

12 Like one time, I think it was anonymous<sup>13</sup> the first  
13 and anonymous<sup>90</sup> the second time.

14 When he --

03:41:59 15 Q. Go ahead.

16 A. When he instructed me to add the flag and all.

17 Q. Okay. So this is the version that had the ISIS flag  
18 on it?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

03:42:04 20 Q. And anonymous is just so you don't have to post your  
21 name?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. Could you have posted your name if you wanted to or  
24 does everybody post --

03:42:13 25 A. Usually everyone just uses anything. Not their names.

1 Q. Okay. And these @'s and then names underneath it, is  
2 this what you were talking about in terms of tagging?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. So are these names that you came up with, or are these  
03:42:28 5 names that ummahonelove gave you?

6 A. No, these are ones that he gave me through his  
7 itsmehere Surespot.

8 Q. Okay.

9 MS. MAGNONE: Your Honor, may I have a moment?

03:42:40 10 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

11 MS. MAGNONE: Thank you, Your Honor. No further  
12 questions.

13 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

14 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we're going to take  
03:42:51 15 our lunch break before we begin with cross-examination.

16 If you would, leave your notepads on your chairs.

17 Remember all the admonitions I've given you.

18 I do have a proceeding over the lunch hour, so my  
19 apologies. We'll begin at 1:00. So I'll give you about an  
03:43:07 20 hour and ten minutes. Take your time for lunch.

21 And remember, again, do not discuss the case among  
22 yourselves, form or express any opinions on the matter, do  
23 any Internet research, all the other things that we  
24 discussed before. Please remember those admonitions.

03:43:19 25 All right. At this time, Ms. Kestner.

1 (Jury out, 11:50 a.m.)

2 THE COURT: All right, Counsel. We'll see you at  
3 1:00. You might want to retrieve the trooper's report which  
4 was left.

03:44:07 5 We'll see you at 1:00.

6 Thank you very much.

7 (Lunch recess taken, 11:50 a.m.)

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1 (Afternoon session March, 13, 2018.)

2 (Jury in, 1:05 p.m.)

3 THE COURT: Counsel, you may cross-examine.

4 MR. DOUGHTEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

04:57:13 5 CROSS-EXAMINATION OF AMANDA AMARO

6 BY MR. DOUGHTEN:

7 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Amaro.

8 A. Good afternoon.

9 Q. What I want to talk to you about to start, is I want  
04:57:21 10 to talk to you about how you first became interested in  
11 Islam and then your association, however little it might be,  
12 with ISIS, all right?

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. Now, if I understood your testimony this morning, that  
04:57:38 15 you were at a time in your life where your marriage wasn't  
16 going well and you were looking for something with more  
17 meaning; is that right?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And how did you first come across even the religion of  
04:57:53 20 Islam? Did you have a friend, anybody you knew about or  
21 just something you saw on the Internet?

22 A. Just started seeing on the Internet within the  
23 Facebook group.

24 Q. Now, is it fair to say did you spend a fair amount of  
04:58:07 25 time on Internet at this time?

1 A. Yes, yes, sir.

2 Q. So you were looking through friends' Facebook cites or  
3 just Facebook cites in general?

4 A. No, Facebook cites in general, I had search on Islam  
04:58:18 5 in general in Google, with you then I came across a group,  
6 when I had seen several people following and they started  
7 peeking about it.

8 Q. What was it about Islam that made you curious?

9 A. The fact that people had such a high faith no matter  
04:58:33 10 what they faced, they just had such a calm from it.

11 Q. And so and when you read a little bit about it, what  
12 kind of formal training did you have or did you just  
13 educating yourself?

14 A. I was just educating myself online. I didn't have  
04:58:50 15 anyone around me or I wasn't familiar in my area, so I just  
16 was trying to look anywhere and everywhere to learn.

17 Q. So if I have it right, and absolutely correct me, if I  
18 have it right, at some point in time, you felt competent  
19 0enough in your new belief that you posted a Twitter account  
04:59:11 20 announcing reversion; is that correct?

21 A. Yes, sir. I just posted that I was a revert on every  
22 one of my accounts.

23 Q. And to somebody maybe like myself, I may not have  
24 known what a revert was, but to people who were deep in the  
04:59:27 25 Islamic faith, they would know, correct?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And you got a lot of responses to that, correct?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And you said some moderate responses?

04:59:37 5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And some fairly radical responses?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. And could you tell us what you mean by radical  
9 responses?

04:59:44 10 A. Radical meaning that you believe that -- you support  
11 those who believe that -- I'm trying it -- sorry, I'm sorry  
12 trying to think of how to describe it.

13 Q. We're not in a hurry at all. Just take your time.

14 A. You want it to be more strongly enforced, I say.

05:00:02 15 Q. Okay. And this morning, you know, you were able to  
16 say a lot about what you thought things meant, correct?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. So when you say more strongly enforced, to me it  
19 sounds like enforced is militant?

05:00:15 20 A. I'm sorry, can you --

21 Q. Militant?

22 A. Oh. In a way, yes, sir.

23 Q. Well, if you could explain the way. You said in a way  
24 you're reading things that you interpret to mean more  
05:00:28 25 strongly enforced. And in a way more violent. I need you

1 to be specific, if you can?

2 A. Okay. Also, it's like a way that it's more emotion  
3 into it, that people are more emotional, more deep and more  
4 out spoken about it.

05:00:44 5 Q. Okay. But you talked about extremist views this  
6 morning?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. And what do you mean by extremist?

9 A. Meaning that they support -- well, an extremist view,  
05:00:56 10 generally that would go with supporting groups that fight,  
11 fight in the name of Islam.

12 Q. Okay. And, of course, in the United States when we  
13 talk about fighting in the name of Islam, we're talking  
14 terrorism, aren't we?

05:01:09 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. Now, you were attracted to those sites?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And what was it that attracted you to the violence and  
19 frankly the terrorist sites?

05:01:20 20 A. For me, I wasn't attracted to violence. But for those  
21 who stated that they were fighting for the innocent, they  
22 said that they were fighting for those who didn't have means  
23 to protect themselves. And they felt that everyone was out  
24 to get them and just out to kill the innocent.

05:01:37 25 So for me, they were just people trying to protect

1 those -- that was what initially drew me to it.

2 Q. Okay. But we are talking within the United States,  
3 correct?

4 A. Yes, sir.

05:01:48 5 Q. And was it your belief that people were out to get  
6 innocent Muslims in the United States?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. And what did you base that on?

9 A. That many schools and many civilians are targeted  
05:02:04 10 people that didn't believe that were within those groups  
11 like a lot of hospitals getting bombed and schools getting  
12 bombed and a lot of children dying.

13 Q. Now I'm confused. I want to make sure I'm not putting  
14 words in your mouth.

05:02:16 15 A. Okay.

16 Q. Did you believe this was going on within the United  
17 States mainly in the United States?

18 A. No. I'm talking about like overseas. I believed that  
19 people here supported just to kill anyone, and that the  
05:02:29 20 reason that I was following those people is because I  
21 believed that they were fighting to protect those people.

22 Q. Did you then believe that it was okay to use violence  
23 against the United States?

24 A. No.

05:02:40 25 Q. Well, weren't those views that you were reading

1 implying that, that it was okay to use violence against the  
2 West?

3 A. They were for within their own lands, but I did not  
4 support it, anything within America itself.

05:02:55 5 Q. Let me make sure I understand.

6 So it would be okay to support violence against troops  
7 in Syria or Lebanon or Iraq, for instance, correct?

8 A. I didn't believe in just killing people. I believed  
9 that it would be important to protect the people. I  
05:03:14 10 believed that a lot of times they were going after innocent  
11 people, not necessarily from their own being, but that was  
12 their directive.

13 Q. Let's be clear here.

14 A. Yes, sir.

05:03:22 15 Q. Protect the people means violence, correct?

16 A. In some ways, yes, sir.

17 Q. I mean, protect the people, we are talking guns, I  
18 mean, weren't these views talking about guns?

19 A. Yes, sir.

05:03:34 20 Q. Okay. So when you're supporting these particular  
21 people you were drawn to, in essence, you were supporting  
22 the use of violence in the Middle East?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. In your mind that was justifiable?

05:03:48 25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Did you ever send money to any of these groups?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. And when you use the term extremist, that would mean  
4 it's outside the norm, correct?

05:04:02 5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And so you're not telling us today that mainstream  
7 Islam supports these acts?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. In fact, mainstream Islam does not support these acts?

05:04:12 10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. But you were drawn to the extreme aspect?

12 A. Yes, sir, later on. Not in the beginning.

13 Q. Okay. Well, when is later on? I thought you said in  
14 April of 2014 --

05:04:25 15 A. I'm talking about in 2013 is when I researched it and  
16 I was following just a more moderate view. It was in 2014  
17 when I was eager to learn more that I had many people reach  
18 out to me, and they passed their opinions on to me, and I  
19 just started following and listening to what they were  
05:04:42 20 saying. It was not my initial going out after.

21 Q. Okay. So you were, for lack of a better term,  
22 extremism grew over time?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. So, in fact, at the time you posted ummdavine, you  
05:04:59 25 were pretty radical, right?

1 A. At the beginning, no, sir. I was just following  
2 people, and then I just started following people's  
3 instructions. So no, I wasn't even really familiar with all  
4 that was going on and what they were saying at that time.  
05:05:12 5 It was later on through time.

6 Q. And you became a supporter of ISIS, correct?

7 A. Later on through time, yes, sir.

8 Q. Explain when later on was?

9 A. Within months. Maybe weeks.

05:05:23 10 Q. All right. So we're still talking within April, May  
11 of 2015?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. And at that time, you were a supporter of ISIS?

14 A. At that time, I was just learning about. Later on I  
05:05:37 15 had left that and I went back in June or July.

16 Q. Well, isn't it a fact that a number of people with  
17 extremist views contacted you during that period of time?

18 A. I'm sorry. Can you please repeat?

19 Q. You know what. Let me say it better.

05:05:52 20 Isn't it a fact that a number of user names contacted  
21 you over this period of time expressing extremist views? It  
22 wasn't just one?

23 A. There was different people that came to me, yes, sir.

24 Q. But there were a number. It wasn't just one that was  
05:06:06 25 coming to you?



1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And you didn't reject any of these people, did you?

3 A. There was some people that I held conversations with.

4 I was very open with just anyone. I didn't know who anyone

05:06:19 5 was. So I was one of those -- I'm sorry, I should have

6 stopped.

7 Q. No, no. Go ahead.

8 A. I just spoke to just about anyone. I was very open

9 about everything.

05:06:26 10 Q. And so when you talked about viewing a head as a

11 soccer ball?

12 A. Yes, sir, I wasn't interested in that. I thought that

13 was very risky, but I just wanted to see why everyone kept

14 talking about some group called ISIS.

05:06:43 15 So I just followed through the news link and it said

16 something about Twitter, and I was just trying to see who

17 were these people that everyone was talking about.

18 Q. Let's be clear.

19 THE COURT: Ma'am, excuse me, could you slow down

05:06:57 20 just a little bit? Please, the court reporters have to take

21 down what you say. I know you have a lot to say but just

22 take your time. Thank you.

23 That will help the Court reporters.

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

05:07:07 25 THE COURT: Could you be, just, slow. Go ahead.

1 BY MR. WARNER:

2 Q. So to be clear, what we are talking about a human head  
3 being kicked around as a soccer ball?

4 A. Yes, sir.

05:07:16 5 Q. And you were attracted to that?

6 A. No, I was not. I cannot say I was attracted to  
7 that --

8 Q. Hold on -- just slow down. Speak whatever you want to  
9 say, but just slow down.

05:07:26 10 A. No, I was not attracted to that. I just kept hearing  
11 in the news in the media to people talking about a group  
12 called ISIS. It was during the World Cup and I had never  
13 heard of ISIS. Where I come from, you don't hear from that.

14 Q. But you did, in fact, look at that video, didn't you?

05:07:40 15 A. I didn't see a video. I just seen a picture. And it  
16 wasn't showing anything of that. It was just talking about  
17 this group.

18 Q. Now, let me ask you this:

19 At any point in time, have you been charged for any  
05:07:52 20 support of ISIS?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. Have you had any discussions with anyone from the  
23 government about whether you would be charged or not?

24 A. No, sir.

05:07:59 25 Q. And so, in fact, you were posting and doing these

1 things to support ISIS, but you don't expect to be charged  
2 as you're sitting here today, do you?

3 A. I hope not, sir. I've tried everything in my power to  
4 change my life.

05:08:14 5 Is it okay to keep --

6 Q. No. We'll get to that.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. If you can, if you can just answer directly what I ask  
9 you. And then I'll ask you another question.

05:08:24 10 A. Okay.

11 Q. And if there is something that's incomplete, the  
12 government will have a chance to get back and let you  
13 continue.

14 A. Okay.

05:08:32 15 Q. Okay. Now, at some point, you were contacted by  
16 ummahonelove, correct?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. You had no idea who this person was, correct?

19 A. Yes.

05:08:45 20 Q. And you didn't know this it was a male or female?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. But that person seemed to be attracted to you because  
23 you had expressed support of radical views, correct?

24 A. It appeared to be, sir, yes, sir.

05:09:00 25 Q. Okay. So it wasn't a surprise to you that somebody of

1 this ilk would contact you because you, in fact, had put it  
2 right on your Twitter page?

3 A. Yes. I mean, I didn't put ISIS on my Twitter page,  
4 but because I was following certain people. So for me it  
05:09:20 5 wasn't unusual for just anyone from anywhere to message me.

6 Q. Well, not about messaging you, but messaging you about  
7 extremist views of Islam?

8 A. Okay. It wasn't unusual. I mean, people from all  
9 over -- I mean, he generally was just first asking me about  
05:09:39 10 how I came to Islam.

11 Q. I understand. But that would be pretty common.  
12 Didn't a number of these people that were contacting you ask  
13 you the same questions?

14 A. Yes, sir.

05:09:48 15 Q. And, in fact, as you said, some of the people were  
16 more moderate in their views of Islam?

17 A. Yes, sir, some were.

18 Q. And so it was a range from very moderate to very  
19 extreme, correct?

05:09:59 20 A. Right. Yes, sir.

21 Q. But you were attracted to the extreme?

22 A. I, over time, I did become, yes, blindly.

23 Q. And you said this ummahonelove started, I guess for  
24 lack of a better term, vetting you about your views,  
05:10:25 25 correct?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And is it safe to say that whoever that person was  
3 behind -- when you would provide a favorable answer, then  
4 they would ask a little more extreme type view of you?

05:10:35 5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Just to see how far you would go?

7 A. Right.

8 Q. And you kept answering?

9 A. Yes, sir.

05:10:41 10 Q. And at some point in time, this person figured out  
11 that you had a Facebook page, correct?

12 A. Yes, sir. Later on they brought up a picture of it.

13 Q. Okay. And in your conversations with this person, you  
14 indicated that ummahonelove said that he had land 45 minutes  
05:11:06 15 from you; is that correct?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. And so let's be clear about that. Shreveport is in  
18 what, northwest Louisiana; is that correct?

19 A. Yes, sir.

05:11:18 20 Q. And Arkansas, the border of Arkansas is how far away,  
21 would you say?

22 A. I would say maybe about 45 minutes to an hour. It's  
23 all right close to Texarkana, Texas, and all right there.

24 Q. Now, in fact, Little Rock is in the northeast portion  
05:11:36 25 of Arkansas, correct?

1 A. Yes. That's further, I believe.

2 Q. Two or three hours north of Texarkana, correct?

3 A. I'm not exact, but I think so.

4 Q. Well, let me put it this way, Little Rock is a lot  
05:11:53 5 further than 45 minutes, correct?

6 A. I would assume so, yes, sir.

7 Q. Okay. Now, you said you personally were not into  
8 weapons?

9 A. No, sir, no.

05:12:07 10 Q. Now, at one time, long before this, 2008, you posed  
11 with a picture of a weapon. What kind of weapon was it?

12 A. I don't know exactly. I think -- I honestly don't  
13 know, sir. Maybe an MS -- I really not familiar with  
14 weapons.

05:12:24 15 Q. Was it a rifle?

16 A. It was a type of a rifle. I just don't know what  
17 kind.

18 Q. Was it automatic? Did it shoot multiple shots?

19 A. I never shot it, sir. I don't know.

05:12:34 20 Q. Was it heavy when you were holding it?

21 A. It was heavy. I held it for jugs a few seconds for a  
22 picture.

23 Q. And be it was your husband that talked you into doing  
24 this?

05:12:41 25 A. Yes. It was his uncle. We were visiting his uncle

1 who actually guarded ed security -- the security places.

2 Q. And other than that, you never held a gun?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Now, you said this ummahonelove asked you if you own  
05:13:02 5 guns?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And did he at any time, or she, become aware  
8 that -- of this picture from 2008?

9 A. That's when they brought up the picture and asked me  
05:13:13 10 was it me in it.

11 Q. And where was this picture from 2008 posted?

12 A. It was in my Facebook profile.

13 Q. So you had -- you're not into guns?

14 A. No.

05:13:24 15 Q. You just did it one time, you know, six, seven years  
16 before that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But yet you posted it on your Facebook page?

19 A. Yes, it wasn't unusual. A lot of people from where  
05:13:36 20 I'm from do that.

21 Q. But you done believe in guns?

22 A. I don't have them. I'm not saying I'm against them.  
23 I don't believe in them in a bad way, but trying to use that  
24 against me is not appropriate because I've never been  
05:13:47 25 someone who just posted violent things. It was just a

1 thing. We're in America. Everyone kind of fantasizes about  
2 it. And where I'm from in the south, they post them.

3 Q. Let me ask you about that.

4 Basically you posted an old picture of yourself  
05:14:02 5 because you were a southern girl and you wanted to appear  
6 like a good old girl from the south?

7 A. That's just how I was, yes, sir.

8 Q. And then part of it is also wouldn't that make you  
9 attractive to other people thinking the same way?

05:14:14 10 A. No, because it mostly just had my family on there. I  
11 didn't have anyone from -- I didn't have a bunch of  
12 strangers on my Facebook.

13 Q. But this wasn't a private, your Facebook is open to  
14 anyone in the United States, correct?

05:14:27 15 A. It wasn't open to anyone, but certain people could see  
16 like pictures, like most of it you couldn't see.

17 Q. All right. Well, I want to ask you about that.

18 In general, your understanding is Facebook is that  
19 portions of it anyone can see, anybody can look in and see,  
05:14:44 20 correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And -- but you are able to, under Facebook to render a  
23 section of is private, just open it to certain friends?

24 A. Why he is.

05:14:54 25 Q. Now, what you're telling us the gun photos were only



1 for your friends? It wasn't open to anybody?

2 A. I had several photos open. Mostly I just had family  
3 on there. I wasn't put putting myself out to the world  
4 there. I just kept a close connection there.

05:15:08 5 Q. Okay. So when ummahonelove asked you -- if I  
6 understand this right, this person, you understood that was  
7 coming from an extremist point of view, correct?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. And at some point in time, this person says, "Let's go  
05:15:28 10 on to Wickr"?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And that's because you didn't want what your  
13 discussions were about, correct?

14 A. That's what I assumed was he wanted to be more private  
05:15:40 15 and to not be known.

16 Q. Well, you knew about Wickr, correct?

17 A. I had not used Wickr before, sir, no, sir.

18 Q. My question was you knew about Wickr?

19 A. No, sir, I never heard of it. The only one I heard of  
05:15:51 20 was the Surespot and Telegram.

21 Q. But you were aware only Surespot and Telegram were  
22 encrypted cites that nobody could know what your  
23 conversations were?

24 A. That's what they said, but I wasn't for sure.

05:16:02 25 Q. You didn't know that?

1 A. I didn't know if they were like really or if someone  
2 was just saying that.

3 Q. In all your reading and all your discussions with  
4 people with an extremist point of view, no one before had  
05:16:13 5 ever talked about private chat rooms to keep prying an eyes  
6 away?

7 A. Not very often. People had --

8 Q. Not very often. But, in fact, people had?

9 A. About some things, yes, sir.

05:16:25 10 Q. So you were aware there were such type of spots,  
11 correct?

12 A. I was aware that there was, but I wasn't for sure how  
13 legitimate they were. There's the better answer.

14 Q. Okay. So when this person, ummahonelove, indicates to  
05:16:40 15 you, "I want to go in to Wickr," you understood that the  
16 reason for that is so that your conversations would be  
17 private, correct?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And wouldn't it be safe to assume that you understood  
05:16:53 20 he was probably going to talk about extremist views?

21 A. I just assumed that. But --

22 Q. Okay. That's a fair assumption.

23 And the fact that this person wanted to go and have  
24 private talks, that was an indication to you that they were  
05:17:08 25 going to be elevated a little bit more than your discussions

1 on Twitter, correct?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. And, in fact, did you go in and talk to this person?

4 A. Yes.

05:17:17 5 Q. And so this person, you're saying then, again, we have  
6 no record because it's self-destructed. But this person  
7 then, in fact, did talk about more radical extremist views,  
8 correct?

9 A. Yes, sir.

05:17:32 10 Q. And you continue to engage with this person, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Now, at any point in time did you call the government  
13 and say, "Hey, look, there's this person espousing ISIS  
14 views I'm talking to"?

05:17:41 15 A. No, just because about everybody was online talking  
16 about that. I didn't really think it was much of a threat  
17 to speak about it. But it does become threatening when they  
18 start, you know, suggesting more dangerous things to  
19 actually do.

05:17:53 20 Q. And did you call the government when they were  
21 suggested that there were more dangerous things? Did you  
22 call them on the phone and say hey, "Look, I have these  
23 views, but this is beyond what's acceptable Islam"?

24 A. No, I did not.

05:18:04 25 Q. Okay. And did, in fact, this person, ummahonelove,

1 talk to you about wanting to be involved in riots in  
2 Baltimore because there were gangs there and it might be  
3 ripe to recruit people, correct?

4 A. Yes, sir.

05:18:17 5 Q. And that's against the law, you knew that, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did you call anybody at that time and let them know?

8 A. No, because there wasn't for sure of it and I wasn't  
9 joining with them.

05:18:26 10 Q. Wait. You weren't for sure. So you didn't think this  
11 person was serious?

12 A. I mean, I thought maybe, but I mean, no, I did not  
13 contact anyone. I mean -- I don't know who they are.

14 Q. You thought maybe because you said you weren't for  
05:18:39 15 sure?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And the reason you didn't call is because you  
18 didn't know if they were serious or not?

19 A. Yes, sir.

05:18:44 20 Q. But today you know they're serious?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And the person talked to you about wanting to build  
23 the mujahideen, in other words a branch of ISIS, within the  
24 United States, correct?

05:19:01 25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. And when was this told to you?

2 A. That was -- he talked about that a little bit -- it  
3 wasn't long after our conversations when we went into Wickr.  
4 I don't remember exactly.

05:19:13 5 Q. So we're talking still April of 2015, that area?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And still you knew that they were talking about  
8 threats against this country?

9 A. I knew that he was suggesting it. But I told him that  
05:19:28 10 I wasn't interested in being involved in it.

11 Q. But did you report that to law enforcement, that  
12 there's somebody trying to build --

13 A. No, sir.

14 Q. And you heard him talk about the caliph, correct?

05:19:44 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you knew what that was, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But that's instrumental to the belief of ISIS is that  
19 caliph, and you understanding is it's not a democracy,  
05:19:54 20 correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. It's all run by the religious people, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And so when he talked about, you know, extending it  
05:20:04 25 into the United States, didn't that concern you?

1 A. Yes, of course.

2 Q. Okay. And who did you express this concern to?

3 A. There was people I spoke to. I don't remember. But  
4 yes, of course, it concerned me. Everything about the whole  
05:20:17 5 situation concerned me.

6 Q. Who did you talk to about this?

7 A. I think just random people that I spoke with. I don't  
8 know -- I don't really remember, sir.

9 Q. Okay. And nobody advised you, "Look, this is serious  
05:20:30 10 stuff. You better go to law enforcement"?

11 A. No.

12 THE COURT: I'm sorry, please wait, both of you,  
13 the court reporters are struggling. Ma'am, please wait  
14 until he finishes his question. You let her finish her  
05:20:44 15 answers, please.

16 MR. DOUGHTEN: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 BY MR. DOUGHTEN:

19 Q. Now, you indicated that ummahonelove had his, I guess,  
05:20:54 20 self-destruct timer, 15 seconds to a minute, you thought  
21 somewhere in that range?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Did you have a self-destruct button also?

24 A. After he instructed me to.

05:21:04 25 Q. And, again, when he's asking you to self-destruct the

1 conversations, didn't that set something off to you about,  
2 this is just not right?

3 A. Yes, of course. The whole thing was unsettling to me.

4 Q. And how was it, in fact, that you came in contact with  
05:21:20 5 the FBI?

6 A. It was later on in June -- yeah, June of 2016.

7 Q. And, in fact, they came to you, didn't they?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you had no intention of going to the FBI with any  
05:21:33 10 of this information?

11 A. I had spoke out to a bunch of people, even my family.  
12 But I assume that they knew because my picture was put out  
13 there. And I was also speaking with someone.

14 Q. Let's back up. You can explain that further.

05:21:47 15 At some point in time somebody, for lack of a better  
16 term, outed you, correct?

17 A. Um-hum.

18 Q. And that person was upset that you were expressing  
19 very extremist views, correct?

05:21:59 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And so to out you, they put your information where?

22 A. On the Twitter.

23 Q. Okay. So that everybody could see it?

24 A. Right.

05:22:10 25 Q. And so at that time you were aware that your views,

1 extreme views, were out on Twitter?

2 A. Right.

3 Q. But yet it didn't occur to you at that time, "Boy, I  
4 better get out in front of this. I better call law  
05:22:25 5 enforcement."

6 A. I spoke to someone that I believed to be an informant.  
7 And I told them I messaged them the day that it happened and  
8 I messaged -- but they weren't online and they came on the  
9 day after and I spoke to them about it.

05:22:37 10 Q. Let me make sure I understand.

11 There was a person online with a user name that you  
12 thought was an informant?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. And why did you believe that person was an informant?

05:22:46 15 A. They had been following me for years, saying several  
16 things that seemed to be like someone just trying to send  
17 me.

18 That would be a long story, sir. They had been  
19 following me since 2014.

05:22:57 20 Q. So fair to say, though, that rather than call law  
21 enforcement, you just told somebody else who may or may not  
22 have been an informant?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Now, when you were asked -- I'm going to like May 2,  
05:23:22 25 that time frame.



1 And on your Twitter platform, you received a message  
2 about see what the brothers had done, correct?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And were you aware from the news about the incident?  
05:23:35 5 Garland, Texas?

6 A. I learned of it on the Twitter itself.

7 Q. Did you go to the news to see what had happened, the  
8 regular news?

9 A. I searched some a little after awhile, yes, sir. And  
05:23:44 10 it came on the news like in the home.

11 Q. And at some point in time, this person asked you to  
12 post a letter?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. And you read the content of the letter, correct?

05:23:59 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And it was pretty pro-ISIS, correct?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And yet the first time you posted it, you had no  
19 hesitation?

05:24:08 20 A. No. I removed each -- the first to times, I did have  
21 hesitation. I removed it immediately and I felt very  
22 uncomfortable and very disturbed about the contents.

23 Q. Well, didn't after the first time somebody ask you to  
24 remove it because it was inaccurate?

05:24:22 25 A. No. He told me that he wanted to change some

1 information at one point.

2 Q. So, in fact, you took it down because the information  
3 wasn't correct?

4 A. No. I felt uncomfortable with the contents.

05:24:32 5 Q. But when the contents were changed, you put it back up  
6 again?

7 A. He -- I felt threatened, sir. I didn't know who he  
8 was. He knew my location. So I felt very scared at that  
9 time and I did express to people how concerned I felt.

05:24:46 10 Q. You were threatened, but you were talking to lots of  
11 people at this point in time?

12 A. Yes, but no one had ever come this close, I was just  
13 following a line -- online, no one had ever come to me like,  
14 "Hey, I want to do this here in America." Most of the

05:25:00 15 people expressed they just wanted to travel overseas. No  
16 one to this extent.

17 Q. Let's be clear. There were no direct threats to you?

18 A. Sir, he had my picture and my location. I didn't know  
19 who he was. He seem to know a lot about me. So yes, I did  
05:25:15 20 feel very threatened.

21 Q. Let me ask again. There were no direct threats to  
22 you?

23 A. No, but I didn't know who he --

24 Q. That's all I asked.

05:25:24 25 A. Okay.

1 Q. And it's your indication that you posted this because  
2 you felt you had to?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Didn't you feel you had to because that was in line  
05:25:33 5 with your own personal beliefs?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. You were a supporter of ISIS?

8 A. I wasn't a supporter of an attack in America, no.

9 Q. But you were a supporter of ISIS?

05:25:41 10 A. I was a supporter of the people defending those  
11 overseas. I was not a supporter of anything within America,  
12 no, sir.

13 Q. Do you remember having a discussion with, might have  
14 been itsmehere, but on the hacking going on in ISIS, having  
05:26:12 15 lots of hackers and lots of ability and hackers. Do you  
16 remember that discussion?

17 A. I'm sorry, sir, no, I do not remember.

18 Q. Okay. If you go to the top of the page, second down,  
19 "We have many brothers."

05:26:33 20 Do you see that line, 5/6, 1:34 p.m.

21 A. Oh, yes, that would be what the person that I had been  
22 speaking with for years.

23 Q. And so you were aware that there was lots of hacking  
24 going on in this field?

05:26:54 25 A. I'm sorry. I don't really understand what you mean.

1 Q. That's fair. It's not a good question.

2 There were problems because Twitter was being  
3 suspended often, correct?

4 A. Yes, sir.

05:27:04 5 Q. Did you have any issues with Twitter being suspended?

6 A. Yes. I had had my accounts suspended as well  
7 following.

8 Q. In the context of that, there was a discussion with  
9 this person about people with IT background and hacking  
05:27:20 10 experience that can attack the account and get it off line,  
11 correct?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Are these like vigilantes, is that what they're  
14 referring to?

05:27:30 15 A. I assume. He didn't really go further in details. He  
16 just said there was a way they could go into Twitter and  
17 remove my -- I guess I assumed he went to hack into them to  
18 remove the information.

19 Q. But it says, "Many brothers"?

05:27:42 20 A. Yes, because he --

21 Q. The term -- go ahead.

22 A. He claimed that he was in Syria. So he talked like he  
23 was there.

24 Q. Okay. So when he referred to brothers, how did you  
05:27:53 25 take his, who brothers were?

1 A. I assumed that he meant like people there that were  
2 specialized.

3 MS. MAGNONE: Objection.

4 THE COURT: The question again, please.

05:28:08 5 BY MR. DOUGHTEN:

6 Q. The question is, the line is, "We have many brothers."  
7 I asked who her she interpreted brothers to be?

8 THE COURT: Sustained.

9 BY MR. DOUGHTEN:

05:28:23 10 Q. And later down -- I'm talking 1:36, the next line from  
11 "Not you. Not the blue line."

12 This person said, "Deathiscertain13," 1:36 at the top?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Isn't that the person you were talking to?

05:28:41 15 A. That was my user name.

16 Q. Okay. So why did you use the term deathiscertain13?

17 A. That was something that I had seen. It had nothing to  
18 do with like death itself. It just meant that it was  
19 something that, way ay before I found out about Islam, I had  
05:28:58 20 seen a picture and it was a term that was used that meant  
21 this life can end at any time, so be prepared and live your  
22 life to the fullest.

23 Q. So that had nothing to do with you that you might  
24 have --

05:29:08 25 A. No, sir, I actually used this long before I ever

1 searched any of that.

2 Q. You got to let me finish the question.

3 A. Oh, okay.

4 Q. By the way, you anticipated correctly, but still let  
05:29:17 5 me finish the question.

6 And later on at 1:36, the person says, "I will check  
7 with the brothers here to see if they talked to this  
8 brother." In other words, you're asking them if they knew  
9 who this ummahonelove is, correct?

05:29:30 10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay.

12 All right. Now at some point in time, you testified  
13 you got in contact with a Sally Jones; is that right?

14 A. Yes, when he instructed me to give the message to her.

05:29:49 15 Q. How do you know it was Sally Jones?

16 A. I had heard about her in the media. And when I had  
17 seen her name up and I had heard a lot about her husband in  
18 the media.

19 Q. I'm sorry. The question, how did you know the person  
05:30:03 20 you were talking to was Sally Jones?

21 A. They claimed to be.

22 Q. Go ahead.

23 A. Like in previous time I searched about them because I  
24 had seen a lot of people talking about them on the Twitter  
05:30:14 25 platform. They claimed to be on the previous times before I

1 had actually myself come to Twitter. And I researched about  
2 them.

3 Q. Listen carefully to my question.

4 You were given a user name, and you were told that  
05:30:28 5 that person was Sally Jones, correct?

6 A. The person who gave me the user name did not say that,  
7 no, no, sir. He said to give to umm Hussain, Abu Hussain.

8 Q. You knew umm is, correct?

9 A. I learned about it from searching it, yes, sir.

05:30:44 10 Q. How do you know that's who it really was?

11 A. I want for sure, but that's what everyone had said, so  
12 I just assumed.

13 Q. It could have been anybody, anyplace in the world  
14 pretending to be her, couldn't it?

05:30:55 15 A. It could have been, but they were pretty out there.  
16 They always claim they were pretty out there.

17 Q. Pretty out there. All she said was, according to you,  
18 "I support what you said, but be careful"?

19 A. No. What I'm saying, sir, is that on the Twitter  
05:31:09 20 platform norm itself, they put themselves out there like  
21 that they were -- that's who they were. They put themselves  
22 out there quite frequently. So everyone assumed that there  
23 was them.

24 Q. You said a lot. I want to break it down one sentence  
05:31:24 25 at a time. And I assure you I'll let you say whatever you

1 want to say.

2 There was a Twitter platform that had user names that  
3 everybody, with air quotes, believed to be Sally Jones and  
4 her husband, correct?

05:31:41 5 A. Right.

6 Q. You had no idea if it was or not?

7 A. Not for certain, no, sir. I just assumed.

8 Q. Okay. And this was Twitter. This wasn't a encrypted  
9 platform?

05:31:51 10 A. Right.

11 Q. And so when somebody gave you a name, it was a Twitter  
12 name?

13 A. You mean -- oh, you mean when they gave me the user  
14 names, yes, sir, the user names.

05:32:03 15 Q. That's a public platform, correct?

16 A. Right.

17 Q. So anybody could have seen what you were putting on,  
18 correct?

19 A. You mean the link?

05:32:11 20 Q. Yes.

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. And so that when you said it was Sally Jones,  
23 it's just because everybody assumed that's who it was?

24 A. Yes, sir.

05:32:20 25 Q. It could have been your next door neighbor?



1 A. It could have been, but I went along with what  
2 everyone was saying.

3 Q. That's the point I wanted to make. Thank you.

4 A. Okay.

05:32:30 5 Q. You were also asked to tag people, correct?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And what were you asked to tag people with?

8 A. With the link.

9 Q. Okay. And you were asked to tag Twitter accounts; is  
05:32:46 10 that correct?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And that's, again, a public account, correct?

13 A. Right.

14 Q. And you said you did that because they asked you to,  
05:32:54 15 correct?

16 A. Yes, because the person asked me to, yes, sir.

17 Q. Okay. And how long -- when did your picture go up, if  
18 you can remember, approximately?

19 A. About an hour, I believe -- I believe it was just an  
05:33:12 20 hour after posting.

21 Q. And do you remember a date? Can you recall the date?

22 A. It was on May 5, the day that I posted.

23 Q. And how long after that were you contacted by the FBI?

24 A. June 26, 2016.

05:33:26 25 Q. Okay. So between May 5 and in June, you had no more

1 contact with ummahonelove; is that correct?

2 A. No, sir, he disappeared.

3 Q. Okay. But you had contact with lots of other people  
4 during that period of time, correct?

05:33:42 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you still were discussing your views on Islam,  
7 correct?

8 A. Yes, I was still expressing the views and also as well  
9 at that time I was contemplating whether it was the right  
05:33:54 10 way and I was trying to understand different -- and I was  
11 still in a learning phase.

12 Q. Okay.

13 MR. DOUGHTEN: Can I have 49, 1, please?

14 BY MR. DOUGHTEN:

05:34:22 15 Q. "Now, death is certain." This is your handle,  
16 correct?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And I'm going to ask you to go down, I think it's four  
19 lines from the bottom. May 6 at 4:17 a.m., correct?

05:34:38 20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And it says, you wrote, "They may have come for me,"  
22 correct?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. And you're referring to the United States government,  
05:34:48 25 right?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And then you write, "If they do, I'll never be a  
3 hypocrite. I'll support my brothers and sisters until the  
4 end."

05:34:59 5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And that was your view?

7 A. Yes, I went along with just about what everyone would  
8 say, yes, sir.

9 Q. And we're saying everyone. We are talking about  
05:35:07 10 everyone with the extremist view, right?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 MR. DOUGHTEN: I have nothing further, Your  
13 Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

05:35:14 15 Any redirect of the witness?

16 MS. MAGNONE: Yes, Your Honor.

17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION OF AMANDA AMARO

18 BY MS. MAGNONE:

19 Q. Ms. Amaro, what did you mean by that last statement  
05:35:26 20 about never being a hypocrite?

21 A. I meant that I would -- well, I mean -- let me think  
22 how to explain that.

23 Q. Take your time.

24 A. At that time I just was keeping up a certain online  
05:35:40 25 appearance. So I just was kind of going along with the way

1 that everyone was saying and I just was saying that I  
2 wouldn't be someone who would just -- I'm  
3 sorry -- struggling to try to come up with the correct  
4 words. That I would keep up with it and I wouldn't -- it's  
05:36:02 5 very hard to --

6 Q. Take your time.

7 A. Online I'd like a certain appearance. Like I just  
8 became someone else online. So at that time, I was speaking  
9 with that informant, it's kind of along the line -- I was in  
05:36:17 10 a way I pretended to be someone that I wasn't. And then  
11 sometimes I would say truths with them and sometimes I would  
12 just go along with what I would see other people say just to  
13 appear to be like them.

14 Q. So would you say you had like an online persona?

05:36:34 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. That was at that supporter of ISIS?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. And the person that you were speaking to in that  
19 communication, in Exhibit 49, was that the person you  
05:36:41 20 believed worked for the government?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. And that is the same person that you provided  
23 the user names for; is that correct?

24 A. Provided --

05:36:54 25 Q. Can we bring up Exhibit 49, page 9?

1           So here in the middle it says itsmehere is the  
2           Surespot he uses. That was his user name on Surespot. So  
3           you were providing that to the person that you believed  
4           worked for the government; is that correct?

05:37:09 5           A.     Yes, ma'am.

6           Q.     And then can you turn to page 10?

7           And then on the bottom of page 10, it says "He's okay.  
8           Twitter was oneummahlove." So, again, that was his Twitter  
9           user name that you were providing to this person that you  
05:37:23 10          believed worked for the government?

11          A.     Yes, ma'am.

12          Q.     Okay. You can take that down.

13          Ms. Amaro, what is your current view of ISIS?

14          A.     Very, very, very far away from that. Overtime and  
05:37:34 15          throughout that year, I was trying to -- struggling with  
16          whether that was the right way. Everything just felt very  
17          confusing. It was a very confusing time for me. And I was  
18          praying and I was just trying to move away from everything,  
19          confused by what was right, you know, what was the truth  
05:37:52 20          there.

21          They would say they were protecting people, but were  
22          they really? I was just in a very confused time, but I've  
23          been very grateful to get away from than and spend my time  
24          learning the true Islam. Learning that's not the correct  
05:38:05 25          way, that we don't go on emotions.

1 Q. So do you currently believe that ISIS is fighting for  
2 innocence overseas?

3 A. No, I do not support any of those groups. I've been  
4 very grateful -- I can -- for me, I feel that God saved me.  
05:38:19 5 I had to go through quite a bad trial. I put myself out  
6 there at a very vulnerable time, and I just was pretty much  
7 just -- I was just too naive. I just listened to anyone. I  
8 was -- I really wanted to learn, but I put myself in the  
9 wrong way and I looked in the wrong way and I'm just really  
05:38:42 10 grateful and I have had time to really learn from the Koran  
11 itself and not from what people say.

12 Q. Okay. I'm going to transition quickly to Facebook.  
13 Defense counsel asked you about this photo. And I just want  
14 to be clear. So the photo was from 2008; is that correct?

05:38:55 15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. Was it posted in 2008 or was it posted in 2015?

17 A. Posted in later on. I think I posted it in 2009 or  
18 '12. I don't remember. Whenever I started using Facebook  
19 with my family.

05:39:12 20 Q. Was it well before the time that this person online  
21 sent it to you?

22 A. Oh, yes, ma'am.

23 Q. And was it before the time that you started  
24 researching Islam or ISIS or any of those thing?

05:39:22 25 A. Yes, it was way before that.

1 Q. And I wasn't very clear. So I just -- was  
2 your -- were the photos on your Facebook profile, were they  
3 open to the public? Or could they only be seen by people  
4 you were friends with on Facebook?

05:39:35 5 A. Some were, but most of them were just to my family and  
6 friends.

7 Q. Do you recall if this particular photo was open to the  
8 public?

9 A. This one, I later on noticed it was open to the  
05:39:45 10 public. I didn't know at the time. And I saw this one and  
11 another one revealing my face was also open to the public.

12 Q. Okay. Has the government made you any promises in  
13 exchange for your testimony today?

14 A. No, ma'am.

05:39:56 15 Q. Have you ever been paid in any way for your  
16 cooperation or your testimony?

17 A. No, no, ma'am.

18 Q. Why did you testify today?

19 A. I -- it's important to bring out the truth. I want to  
05:40:08 20 be -- for me, this was a very bad situation to go through.  
21 I put myself out in a very vulnerable time. No one has  
22 forced me or anything like that. I want to come clean.

23 Obviously I feel a bunch of shame for going down that  
24 route and following that way and allowing myself to be in  
05:40:26 25 that way.

1           So for me, it's just important to be open and clear  
2           and honest.

3           Q.     Okay.

4                   MS. MAGNONE: Thank you, Your Honor. No further  
05:40:32 5           questions.

6                   THE COURT: Thank you. Anything?

7                   MR. DOUGHTEN: Yes.

8                   THE COURT: Yes.

9                   RE CROSS-EXAMINATION OF AMANDA AMARO

05:40:35 10           BY MR. DOUGHTEN:

11           Q.     Again, I'm not disputing what you're saying, but I'm  
12           more interested in what your mindset was at that time.

13           A.     Okay.

14           Q.     Now, when you were holding yourself out back then, did  
05:40:49 15           you ever post your Wickr account on your Twitter?

16           A.     No, sir, no.

17           Q.     And finally, if I understand what you're saying, what  
18           you're telling us today is that you and maybe  
19           others -- well, I'll just ask about you.

05:41:02 20                   You're pretending to be radical to have the  
21           appearance, but that's not what you really believed?

22           A.     I at times I believed certain things. But I put  
23           myself out there like -- how can I best explain this? I  
24           made myself seem more that way. I went into a world that  
05:41:19 25           really wasn't of my character. It was out of my character.



1 MR. DOUGHTEN: Thank you. Nothing further, Your  
2 Honor.

3 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

4 Ma'am, you can step down. You're excused.

05:41:32 5 Counsel, your next witness, please.

6 MR. BENNETT: Yes, Your Honor, at this point the  
7 government would call Matthew Palmer.

8 THE COURT: Sir, if you would approach the  
9 witness stand over here, please, to my right.

05:42:12 10 Please just approach the witness stand and please  
11 remain standing while I administer the oath.

12 MATTHEW PALMER,

13 of lawful age, a witness called by the United States,

14 being first duly placed under oath, was examined

05:42:35 15 and testified as follows:

16 THE COURT: All right. Be seated in the witness  
17 stand, if you would. Just a couple of brief instructions.

18 Please wait until the attorneys complete their  
19 questions before you begin to respond. It's difficult for  
05:42:47 20 the court reporters and the listeners when two individuals  
21 are speaking at the same time.

22 If there is an objection to any question, do not  
23 answer the question until I rule on the objection. Of  
24 course, if I sustain the objection, you will not answer the  
05:43:01 25 question.

1 Thank you very much.

2 Counsel, you may inquire.

3 MR. BENNETT: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION OF MATTHEW PALMER

05:43:05 5 BY MR. BENNETT:

6 Q. Mr. Palmer, can you introduce yourself to the ladies  
7 and gentlemen of the jury and spell your last name for the  
8 court reporter?

9 A. My name is Matthew Palmer. And it's spelled  
05:43:14 10 P-A-L-M-E-R.

11 Q. Mr. Palmer, in what state do you currently live?

12 A. Kansas.

13 Q. And what are you doing for a living?

14 A. I'm a full-time student.

05:43:24 15 Q. And prior to that time, or now, did you act as an FBI  
16 informant?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. How did that come about?

19 A. In about 2011, I was a graduate student. And I was  
05:43:42 20 interested in researching nationalism and terrorism. I got  
21 interested in the use of social media to recruit potential  
22 terrorist individuals.

23 And so I started a research project, and I was kind of  
24 nervous that the FBI would kick down my door so I went to  
05:44:03 25 the local office and told them, you know, what I was doing

1 and provided anything, you know, of a serious nature to  
2 them. And the relationship kind of took off from there.

3 Q. In what state were you living in at that point?

4 A. This was in Pennsylvania.

05:44:18 5 Q. And did you at some point move from Pennsylvania to  
6 another state and continue as an informant?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Where was that?

9 A. I first moved to Oklahoma and then to Colorado.

05:44:35 10 Q. And at some point throughout this process, did you  
11 actually be approached or become approached about being an  
12 actual paid informant?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How did that happen?

05:44:44 15 A. While I was in Colorado, I worked -- I met a couple  
16 individuals of, I guess pretty high value at that time and  
17 was able to help in a case against them. And the  
18 relationship from there went from, you know, periodic  
19 payments to, you know, would you like to do this on a more  
05:45:12 20 consistent basis. And I said sure.

21 Q. And what were you doing initially at least, or back in  
22 2015, as far as -- as an informant. What actually would you  
23 be doing?

24 A. Based upon my graduate work and graduate studies, I  
05:45:29 25 would develop social media personas that I thought would be

1 of interest to recruiters for the Islamic State or other  
2 terrorist organizations. And basically I would have these  
3 Facebook profiles and I would kind of put them out into the  
4 cyber world and see if anybody would approach them and say,  
05:45:55 5 you know, "Hey, do you want to be a terrorist," pretty much.

6 Q. Okay. And you say at some point you actually got paid  
7 for your work. Since about 2011, has it been a little over  
8 \$200,000 that you've been paid?

9 A. I don't know the exact number. I think since that  
05:46:12 10 time it works out to about 45 or 47 thousand a year on  
11 average.

12 Q. Do you get paid extra money if it leads to an arrest?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you get paid extra money if it leads to some kind  
05:46:27 15 of conviction?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Are you given a target to go get? Or do you set up  
18 the profile and wait and see who come to you?

19 A. No. Everything I do has been very passive. And I've  
05:46:38 20 actually been given instructions not to, you know -- "Don't  
21 go out and stir things up. Don't go out and do this." But  
22 just start your profile and if anybody comes to you, just  
23 let us know.

24 Q. Do you actually speak Arabic?

05:46:52 25 A. No.

1 Q. Have you learned some terms, trade craft based upon  
2 what you've been doing?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you consider yourself a practicing Muslim?

05:47:01 5 A. No.

6 Q. So if you have this out there in the cyber world and  
7 you get contacted, what's next? What did you do next?

8 A. Generally the previous cases that I've been a part of,  
9 somebody would approach me based on content that I had on my  
05:47:22 10 social media profile, whether that's Facebook or Twitter or  
11 something like that, and they would say, "Hey, I really like  
12 the content of what you're saying. I would like to be a  
13 part of it, or I really like the content of what you're  
14 saying. Would you like to be -- take a more active role?"  
05:47:37 15 And we would develop this relationship.

16 I would alert my contacts with the FBI and say, "Hey,  
17 this person reached out to me at such and such time," and I  
18 would take screen shots of the communication, write up a  
19 brief synopsis, and they would say, "You know, okay. You  
05:47:57 20 know, carry on and see what happens or, you know, don't  
21 worry about that person."

22 Q. So do you always immediately tell the FBI of contact?  
23 Or do you wait until it develops a little bit? Is there a  
24 point where you get somebody from the FBI involved?

05:48:13 25 A. I try to tell it immediately. Sometimes time doesn't

1 always offer that. Especially when I was having  
2 communications with people abroad, it was past my 9:00  
3 bedtime so I waited until the next morning.

05:48:34 4 Q. Are you or were you provided with any specialized  
5 training at this point from the FBI?

6 A. No.

7 Q. You mentioned taking screen shots. What do you mean  
8 in that regard?

9 A. So whether I'm on a computer or an iPad or some type  
05:48:47 10 of mobile device, you can hit a combination of buttons that  
11 will take basically a picture of all the content in the  
12 screen.

13 Sometimes a screen shot might refer to, I would have  
14 the mobile device that I used to communicate with other  
05:49:04 15 individuals and then my personal one. And because of the  
16 software that we would be using to communicate, I would have  
17 to take a physical picture of the screen because if I hit  
18 that button combination, it would alert the other person to  
19 me taking a screen shot, which I didn't want to happen.

05:49:23 20 Q. And are you always able to get a screen shot? Are  
21 there sometimes portions of a conversation are missed?

22 A. I tried really hard to always get them, but there were  
23 definitely sometimes -- I remember one specific instant  
24 where I was driving and I was having a communication with  
05:49:39 25 somebody. And it was set to -- the software call it like a

1 self-destruct. The message would go away in like a minute.  
2 So I'm driving, and I have one knee on the wheel and, you  
3 know, there are sometimes, those instances where I couldn't  
4 always get a screen shot.

05:49:58 5 Q. And in anticipation of your testimony here today, did  
6 you have a chance to talk with the government?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you have an opportunity to review some of the  
9 screen shots that you provided?

05:50:08 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And as we go through them, were they all true and  
12 accurate as to what you had actually done and what you had  
13 provided to the government?

14 A. Yes.

05:50:18 15 Q. Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 28?

16 And I apologize for the copy. It's a little  
17 bit -- can we just go to the top there, drop down about  
18 halfway.

19 Can you identify what this document is and then we'll  
05:50:39 20 go through some specifics?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What is this?

23 A. This is a communication that I had with --

24 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, Your Honor, am I allowed  
05:50:52 25 to say the name of the program?

1 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

2 THE WITNESS: So this was a communication that I  
3 had with a person via an encrypted message application  
4 called Surespot.

05:51:07 5 BY MR. BENNETT:

6 Q. So let's stop you there. When you say encrypted,  
7 what's your understanding of Surespot and to be encrypted?

8 A. I guess the best way to explain it is if you were to  
9 mail a letter to somebody, you would write your letter. You  
05:51:21 10 would put it in the envelope, and you would put a certain  
11 code on it and it would go through the mail.

12 And only the other person, they would have that same  
13 code and they would use it to unlock it. That's basically  
14 what the phones did.

05:51:36 15 It was encrypted while it went over the air from  
16 person to person.

17 Q. So that only the two people in the communication  
18 should be able to hear or see what each other is saying?

19 A. Correct.

05:51:44 20 Q. Okay. So at the very top there, who are you  
21 communicating with?

22 A. I'm communicating with a user name Willayatx.

23 Q. Do you know any special meaning of Willaya or  
24 Willayatx?

05:52:02 25 A. When I was first approached by this individual, I



1 always like to kind of deconstruct the name of what it  
2 means. And I found this, this Willaya to be Arabic for  
3 state. And TX to be the abbreviation for Texas.

05:52:25 4 Q. And if we look up in the far upper left-hand corner,  
5 the symbol that's there, does that tell you anything?

6 A. Are you referring to the circle with --

7 Q. The hash in the middle.

8 A. That's icon for the application Surespot.

9 Q. And if we're looking at the screen itself, there's  
05:52:39 10 some text to the left right on the margin. And then it's  
11 indented. Does that -- with a blue line.

12 Does that tell you anything about who is speaking?

13 A. Yes. The leftern most text with the grey is my  
14 communications. And the indented to the -- with the blue is  
05:53:02 15 the other user.

16 Q. So looking at the top or even the first view, what's  
17 the date of this communication?

18 A. It appears -- April 1, 2015.

19 Q. And we look down to the fourth line, after the  
05:53:22 20 salutations or hellos, what's being said there?

21 A. The user said to me, "Love your tweets Akhi."

22 Q. So were you putting tweets out? And what were those  
23 tweets saying?

24 A. Generally I would, after there was an attack on the  
05:53:40 25 United States or any type of western interest, I would go to

1 Twitter and basically voice my affirmation for it using one  
2 of these profiles and say, "Hey, you know, this was great  
3 that this happened."

4 And from that, a lot of like-minded people, you know,  
05:54:01 5 like-minded in the sort of jihadi sense would sort of  
6 approach me and say, "Hey, I agree with that, too."

7 And so I remember this user name approached me,  
8 referring to those tweets, and basically said, "Hey, I  
9 really like what you said regarding such and such attack."  
05:54:18 10 I don't remember exactly which one it was.

11 Q. And you said jihadi mind, what do you mean by that?

12 A. Most of the -- well, all of my personas would have  
13 this subtle approval or desire to join the Islamic State.  
14 And so when I use the term jihadi, it's somebody who  
05:54:38 15 believes in, you know, radical Islamic terrorism is a term  
16 you might be familiar with. It's more complicated than  
17 that, but that's a good way to sum it up.

18 Q. And towards the bottom there, when you're speaking,  
19 what are you asking this individual?

05:54:53 20 A. Which line are you referring to?

21 Q. Your last line that we see with the grey there.

22 A. The "Where are you located?"

23 Q. So why are you asking that?

24 A. I generally, when I speak to somebody, I try to get a  
05:55:10 25 feel for where they are, if they're in the United States,

1 out of the United States, and if they're in the United  
2 States, I try to get just a generally idea.

3 Q. And what is this person's response?

4 A. I don't remember in this exact screen shot.

05:55:29 5 Q. Look at the second from the bottom. We can scroll up  
6 and make it a little bit easier so you're not looking at the  
7 bottom.

8 What's he say in the second line there?

9 A. After I told him that I was in the southwest?

05:55:42 10 Q. No. You ask where are you located -- here.

11 A. Okay. After I asked him where he was located, he  
12 basically said, "Well, you know, if you tell me, I'll tell  
13 you."

14 Q. All right. And is there some discussion about  
05:56:02 15 Surespot?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. What is being said about Surespot?

18 A. The user said that he didn't trust Surespot.

19 Q. Okay. And at some point do you tell him where you're  
05:56:11 20 located?

21 A. I told him that I was in the southwest of Dar Al Harb.

22 Q. And what does that mean --

23 Just for the record, it's D-A-R, then A-L, and  
24 H-A-R-B.

05:56:27 25 Go ahead.

1 A. Some conservative Muslim sects will divide the world  
2 into three houses. You know, houses. One of the houses  
3 being Dar Al Harb, and that's basically the house of the  
4 enemy where Muslims are in theory treated harshly or under  
05:56:47 5 penalty.

6 So it was common at this time if somebody was, you  
7 know, seeking to be a mujahideen or a member of the Islamic  
8 State, they would say that they were in Dar Al Harb  
9 indicating that they were in enemy territory essentially.

05:57:04 10 Q. And when you say the southwest, is that still like the  
11 southwest of the United States?

12 A. It's -- the southwest, I was in Colorado at this time  
13 and southern Colorado where it's still very deserty, with  
14 like rattlesnakes and at that Tarantulas so I considered  
05:57:22 15 that the southwest.

16 Q. What does he say in response as far as where he is  
17 located?

18 A. He says, "Me too," which I interpreted as I'm also in  
19 the southwest, which I connected to his screen name of  
05:57:34 20 Willayatx, indicating that he might be in Texas.

21 Q. So can we go to page 2 of Exhibit 28.

22 And then can we go in the middle. From there we got  
23 land and down.

24 And, again, what's the date at this point? Is this  
05:57:53 25 still the same conversation on April 1?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And what, at the very top, are you being told by this  
3 individual?

4 A. He tells me that he has land, a house, intentions, but  
05:58:09 5 no brothers and sisters who fear none but Allah.

6 Q. Does that mean something specific that these  
7 individuals don't fear none but Allah?

8 A. There are two things in that statement that I  
9 immediately noticed.

05:58:24 10 To your point, who fear none but Allah, that's  
11 traditionally a statement made by people who don't recognize  
12 nations or borders, which is usually -- it goes back to the  
13 Dar Al Harb, the Dar Al Islam, there's holy lands and then  
14 non-holy lands. And that's what I interpreted from that.

05:58:49 15 Q. So it's some level of commitment?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And then he goes on, the next time he speaks, what is  
18 he saying about building?

19 A. "We are building, but brothers insist yap a lot here,  
05:59:01 20 but very few are willing to cut the rope to this Dunya and  
21 build together."

22 Q. So another reference to some level of commitment?

23 A. Yes, the Dunya refers to basically our commercial  
24 world in which we live. And so the cutting ties to the, you  
05:59:22 25 know, the present world and living a world more, sort of

1 holistically and completely under Allah's guidance is what I  
2 interpreted from that.

3 Q. And if we go to page 3, 28.3 or -3.

4 And it's from "And" down to the bottom.

05:59:47 5 This is you talking at the top?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What are you asking and why?

8 A. So I asked the user, and "I would like to hear your  
9 opinion on King Salman. Do you believe him and his scholars  
06:00:07 10 to be Kuffar?"

11 This was a number of years ago. So forgive me if  
12 it's --

13 Q. You don't have to site exactly. Is it some kind of  
14 test?

06:00:17 15 A. Yes. Basically there was an influential scholar, and  
16 I wanted to get his opinion on that scholar as that would  
17 give me a greater indication as to how he -- how committed  
18 he was to the cause that he was identifying.

19 Q. Okay. And based on this, were you able to decipher  
06:00:36 20 where he kind of came down ideology-wise?

21 A. Yes. What he said was he is a dog and the son of a  
22 dog, typically that's a pretty harsh statement in the Muslim  
23 community, so I interpreted him to not be very approving.

24 Q. Of what kind of sect?

06:00:57 25 A. Of that King Salman and his scholars.

1 I recall them being Saudi Arabian and a more moderate  
2 sect.

3 Q. Towards the middle there's a reference to M.D.,  
4 Maryland, I believe, do you know what that reference is?

06:01:13 5 A. I did not at the time. But when he said, "We had our  
6 first meeting in M.D.," I interpreted that to be the  
7 abbreviation for Maryland.

8 Q. And then two steps down, there's a reference to  
9 another app. What's that?

06:01:32 10 A. Later, he says you should learn about an app called  
11 Wickr. W-I-C-K-R. Wickr is another type of encrypted,  
12 end-to-end encrypted program for communications. It's  
13 similar to Surespot but made by a different organization.

14 Q. More secure? Less secure? The same?

06:01:54 15 A. As I recall, I don't remember there being a greater  
16 level of security with it.

17 Q. So let's go to page 4. So 28-4.

18 And it's in the middle, if we go from I understand  
19 down, so it's the second line from the top, this is all on  
06:02:23 20 the same day.

21 What is he telling you to call him?

22 A. He tells me to call him Abu Harb.

23 Q. And as far as you know, did that have any Islamic  
24 meaning? Or did you research that at all?

06:02:36 25 A. I don't recall researching that at that time, no.

1 Q. Okay. There's also a reference in the middle there,  
2 "Brother, I'm all about tying the camel."

3 Do you know what that was referencing?

4 A. I remember looking it up at the time, tying the camel,  
06:02:55 5 there's a very famous Islamic proverb about tying your  
6 camel. It was really big for awhile in the jihadi  
7 expressions. And I remember using it. But I'm sorry, I  
8 don't recall exactly what it means at this time.

9 Q. Okay.

06:03:16 10 You go on to ask him his Twitter handle. Do you know  
11 why you're asking that?

12 A. Yes. Oftentimes I would try to connect a Surespot  
13 identity with a social media account so I could, you know,  
14 have a better understanding of who I was talking to.

06:03:37 15 Q. And what does he respond back about the number of  
16 people he's talking to?

17 A. He indicates to me that he's spoken with many  
18 different brothers.

19 Q. And then you say next, "I only reverted several years  
06:03:58 20 ago."

21 What do you mean by reverted?

22 A. Sir, reverted in the Islamic sense suggests that a  
23 person was either born into or practiced Islam at a very  
24 early age but fell out of it and then, you know, came back  
06:04:19 25 into a more committed lifestyle later in life.



1 Q. And there's next some standard verification questions.  
2 Did you go through a series of questions with him?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can we move to page 5 of this exhibit, 28-5?

06:04:38 5 And can we just blow up the top. Keep coming down a  
6 little bit more. All the way to the bottom. "Always about  
7 and above his throne."

8 So can you identify what's going on here?

9 A. We were beginning the test of my knowledge of Islam.  
06:04:59 10 And I had had this happen in a couple other communications.  
11 And it was basically what I interpreted to be as somebody  
12 wanting to make sure that I was, you know, truly a Muslim  
13 that he was talking to.

14 Q. Are you asked outright whether you're law enforcement  
06:05:23 15 or a terrorism watch agency?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And how do you respond to that?

18 A. I told him that I was not. And I answered the  
19 questions that he asked me above.

06:05:37 20 Q. Did you know the answer to all these questions? Or  
21 did you need to look them up?

22 A. Embarrassing, I had to glance at Wikipedia as we were  
23 going forward.

24 Q. Okay. And then at the bottom, if we could scroll the  
06:05:51 25 bottom up just a little bit there.

1 It seems like you're actually asking him a question?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Why is that?

4 A. In any type of communication that you have with  
06:06:04 5 people, not only do you want to, you know, answer their  
6 questions to the best that you can, but you also want to  
7 give them the impression that you're concerned about them.

8 It was very important in the early stages of -- by  
9 early stages, I mean 2011, 2012, when encrypted  
06:06:26 10 communications were just coming into the communication  
11 scene, you -- it was common trade craft to say, you know,  
12 "Hey, I understand you're concerned about me, and I'm also  
13 concerned about you." And it would help to develop a  
14 greater level of rapport with the other person.

06:06:45 15 Q. And I notice on the bottom, the one question is kind  
16 of repeated in the answers. Are these kind of being  
17 overlapping on themselves when you're taking pictures?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So are there sometimes there are repeated as you're  
06:07:01 20 trying to get a portion of it or maybe even slightly out of  
21 order?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. So can we go to page 6, 28-6.

24 And it's at the bottom, the last four or so.

06:07:18 25 Right there.

1 This is a continuation of the app on Wickr. What are  
2 you being told about Wickr?

3 A. He's telling me that Wickr has OTR encryption and that  
4 it's military grade.

06:07:35 5 Q. And are you being asked to do anything more with that  
6 information?

7 A. He's asking me to inform the other brothers, brothers  
8 I interpreted to be other brothers committed to the cause of  
9 jihad.

06:07:52 10 Q. Can we go to 28-7?

11 And it's the middle here with what -- all the way  
12 down. "What did you mean?"

13 So at the top there, what are you asking?

14 A. I wanted to get back to when he said, M.D., I wanted  
06:08:13 15 to confirm that that was Maryland. And so I asked him, what  
16 did you mean by first meeting, did you mean Maryland? And  
17 then I told him I'm originally from Philadelphia.

18 Q. And then what is his response?

19 A. He said, "Yeah, M.D., confirming," I interpreted that  
06:08:31 20 as he confirmed that he was in Maryland. Or at least was in  
21 Maryland at some point meeting people.

22 Q. And there was some sort of meeting?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And then below that, it talks about more sisters on  
06:08:48 25 the haqq, H-A-Q-Q, than brothers. What is that referring

1 to?

2 A. The haqq is in sort of jihadist colloquial language,  
3 refers to the truth, or the true meaning of Islam. And it  
4 refers to a number of popular Islamic scholars would be  
06:09:11 5 considered apologists and it's only those who speak the  
6 truth or members of the haqq that speak the true Islam, and  
7 that true Islam generally call for violent jihad.

8 Q. And at the bottom, you also mention something about  
9 hijrah, what is that and what is his response to that?

06:09:34 10 A. Hijrah has a double meaning in the Islamic sense.  
11 One, it's returning to Mecca, which is one of the five  
12 pillars of Islam. But among the jihadi community, hijrah  
13 has become code for travel to the Muslim lands to defend  
14 against western invaders, and that generally has the  
06:09:57 15 connotation of taking up arms against what they consider  
16 invaders such as American soldiers or coworking soldiers.

17 Q. And is there a specific area you would go to or a  
18 country?

19 A. In 2015 -- it's always focused on Syria. In 2015,  
06:10:17 20 there were different ways to get into Syria. So, you know,  
21 sometimes you would go to Turkey and try to make your way  
22 into Syria that way.

23 Q. Okay. And what's this person's opinion or response to  
24 going overseas?

06:10:30 25 A. He tells me that he doesn't encourage anyone to do

1 that. He was correct in that the federal law enforcement  
2 had gotten good at finding people that were trying to make  
3 hijrah, and so his communication was similar to other  
4 communications that I had with other people that focused on  
06:10:57 5 domestic acts rather than trying to travel abroad.

6 Q. Okay. And I would like to go back to 28-5.

7 And in the middle here, and then come across and just  
8 down a little bit.

9 Stop there.

06:11:18 10 On Twitter, does he provide you with any additional  
11 information about himself?

12 A. Yes. He gives me his Twitter handle.

13 Q. Which was what?

14 A. Sham\_reason.

06:11:38 15 Q. And did you have any particular reasoning associated  
16 with that?

17 A. The lands of the sham, typically it's S-H-A-A-M,  
18 sometimes S-H-A-M. That generally refers to the holy Muslim  
19 lands.

06:11:56 20 Q. Can we go to 28-8?

21 And starting from the first grey down, "So I had  
22 thought."

23 And going back to traveling overseas, what had you  
24 suggested?

06:12:13 25 A. I'm sorry. Could you say that again?

1 Q. The hijrah, you're speaking about it. What are you  
2 telling him about it at the very top there?

3 A. I had told him that I had saved money to support my  
4 own hijrah, but that I was worried as it seemed to be  
06:12:36 5 unsuccessful for most of the other people that attempted it.

6 Q. And what is his response to you?

7 A. He told me that instead -- pardon me -- that we should  
8 stay here and get brothers together and get together and  
9 build.

06:12:54 10 Q. And what's the reference, "You can't do something from  
11 prison."

12 A. You can't do Amir bil -- and I'm not sure how to  
13 pronounce that with the letter 3.

14 Typically they would -- sometimes if you have an  
06:13:13 15 English keyboard, you need to use the number 3 to make it  
16 look like an Arabic term. And --

17 Q. Did you know what this meant?

18 A. I don't recall if I did or didn't. I'm sorry.

19 Q. Okay. So let's go down a little bit. And there's a  
06:13:30 20 question at the very bottom of this screen.

21 What's he asking you there?

22 A. He is asking me if I'm able to travel.

23 Q. Okay. And if we go to 28-9, and we start, "Yes, clean  
24 history and save some funds across."

06:13:59 25 What are you responding?

1 A. I told him that I had saved funds, again, alluding to  
2 the potential travel for hijrah. And then he reasks me if  
3 I'm able to travel within the U.S.

4 Q. Okay. So we're focused on within the United States.  
06:14:19 5 And what's your response?

6 A. I told him that I have a Subaru and that I could.

7 Q. And a couple more lines down there, what is he talking  
8 about with regard to the actual meeting itself?

9 A. He is saying that we should meet, but that we should  
06:14:37 10 both cover our faces. I interpreted that to be an  
11 indication that he was concerned about --

12 MR. HARTMAN: Objection, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Sustained.

14 BY MR. BENNETT:

06:14:50 15 Q. Can we go to 28-10?

16 Just the middle down. That's pretty good. Right  
17 there.

18 There's a reference there to a manual. And what's  
19 your response to that?

06:15:09 20 A. He asked me if I have a manual. And I told him that I  
21 don't know what manual that he's speaking about.

22 Q. And he further qualifies it as 2015 manual. Did you  
23 know what it meant at that point?

24 A. I can't speak to the exact manual. I know that when I  
06:15:33 25 searched for it, I found several manuals that were dated,

1 you know, A Mujahid Guide 2015, and all of them concerned  
2 hijrah and traveling abroad.

3 Q. And can -- towards the bottom of this, you ask whether  
4 you should use Wickr. Did you at some point change over to  
06:16:01 5 Wickr?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So if we look at page -- just at this point, we'll  
8 stay with this communication, 28, page 11.

9 And "Erase," starting with erase, what are you being  
06:16:18 10 told there?

11 A. I'm being told to erase my Surespot ID from my  
12 Twitter. And what I had done is on my social media  
13 profiles, I would always include a way that another brother  
14 could contact me via an encrypted messaging program. So  
06:16:39 15 that was always something that I put out.

16 So my Twitter in the little profile it had my Surespot  
17 ID. And he instructed me to remove that.

18 Q. And then what are you to do?

19 A. He instructed me to replace it with my Wickr ID.

06:16:54 20 Q. And then at the bottom, while on Wickr, what are you  
21 being told?

22 A. He told me not to use any Islamic terms.

23 Q. And then he's going to do what?

24 A. He's going to monitor my profile for the ID.

06:17:12 25 Q. Okay. And if we go to 28-12. And you can just read



1 this at the top?

2 Do you know, the reference to "Trolls," what that's  
3 referring to?

4 A. Generally trolls, you know, meaning somebody trying to  
06:17:37 5 potentially hack in your communications or, you know, just  
6 give you a hard time on Twitter.

7 Q. And you say, "Okay. Give me a second."

8 Were you actually setting up a Wickr account?

9 A. I don't know if this exact statement refers to the  
06:17:56 10 setting up the Wickr account or the changing of my Twitter  
11 profile.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. But I did both of those.

14 Q. And then what's he saying in response to that?

06:18:07 15 A. He tells me that "If the Kuffs have hacked this convo,  
16 let's be clear, I stay ready."

17 Q. And what's below that?

18 A. "And I do not negotiate with terrorists."

19 Q. So with this person, was that a constant concern,  
06:18:27 20 security and being hacked?

21 A. It was concerning for a number of reasons. Certainly  
22 he is very concerned about encryption --

23 MR. HARTMAN: And, Your Honor, I'm going to  
24 object again.

06:18:43 25 THE COURT: Yes, sustained.

1 BY MR. BENNETT:

2 Q. Were you then moving, purposely being directed to move  
3 from one application to another?

4 A. At his request, yes.

06:18:54 5 Q. And these were all encrypted applications?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So protected?

8 A. Yep.

9 Q. So can we go to Government Exhibit 28-13?

06:19:06 10 Yes.

11 And just the bottom where "I never heard anything bad  
12 about Surespot." Down.

13 So this is a continuation of the discussion of back  
14 and forth through the Wickr or Surespot.

06:19:21 15 And he says, "I got this from a brother highly  
16 connected."

17 What did you believe highly connected to refer to?

18 A. I believe that to mean somebody directly connected to  
19 the Islamic State.

06:19:33 20 MR. HARTMAN: Objection.

21 THE COURT: Sustained. Disregard the answer,  
22 ladies and gentlemen.

23 BY MR. BENNETT:

24 Q. Can we turn to Government's Exhibit 29.

06:19:45 25 Can you identify this document?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What is this?

3 A. This is a screen shot of a communication that I had  
4 with a user name hereafter on the application Wickr.

06:20:03 5 Q. So why do we know or how do we know that it's Wickr?

6 A. You can see up in the top left icon. It looks like a  
7 shining star. That's the Wickr application icon. And also  
8 the colors of the interface and the -- in the red, that's  
9 the self-destruct feature which is counting down until those  
06:20:33 10 messages are deleted.

11 Q. And was this a connection, this hereafter, did it  
12 connect to your new Wickr account that you had just set up?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And shortly thereafter?

06:20:45 15 A. Very shortly, yes.

16 THE COURT: How much longer do you have with this  
17 witness, do you know?

18 Why don't we approach at sidebar just for a moment,  
19 please?

06:20:55 20 Thank you.

21 (Discussion at sidebar as follows:)

22 THE COURT: I'm sorry, how much longer do you  
23 think you have?

24 MR. BENNETT: I've probably got about a half  
06:21:14 25 hour.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Then we'll break. I have a  
2 2:30 supervised release violation initial appearance. It's  
3 not going to be a hearing. So that will take 20 minutes.  
4 You got another half hour with this witness and then cross?

06:21:28 5 MR. DOUGHTEN: Judge, it appears the trial is  
6 going quicker than normal. And there was a witness that the  
7 government's not going to call, but he's here for us to call  
8 for the defense, but we really only have --

9 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, I anticipate we  
06:21:44 10 probably only have one additional witness who we have not  
11 told defense we were going to call her today because we  
12 didn't think we would get to her.

13 THE COURT: Well, you probably won't get to her  
14 today, I wouldn't think.

06:21:55 15 MR. DOUGHTEN: That's fine.

16 MR. SHEPHERD: And we would be fine with breaking  
17 after this witness.

18 THE COURT: We are going to take 20 minutes, that  
19 will be 2:50, another half hour, that will be 3:20, and then  
06:22:07 20 you cross, if you cross for 30 minutes or more. Then we can  
21 break. And then you have one other witness tomorrow.

22 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: The same witness you wanted to call?

24 MR. DOUGHTEN: No. They have the IT person from  
06:22:18 25 the FBI and we have an agent who was his handler in South

1 Carolina that we're going to call from the defense side.  
2 And then the only other thing that we have is if the  
3 defendant decides whether to testify or not testify.

4 THE COURT: Do you want to call -- are you going  
06:22:31 5 to call the government's IT expert?

6 MR. DOUGHTEN: Correct -- no they're going to  
7 call them.

8 THE COURT: I thought you were talking about  
9 calling somebody out of turn?

06:22:38 10 MR. DOUGHTEN: No.

11 THE COURT: So you're going to go at least half  
12 day tomorrow probably.

13 MR. SHEPHERD: Probably not morning, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And so will you be prepared to  
06:22:46 15 put on evidence tomorrow afternoon.

16 MR. DOUGHTEN: Yeah, we'll have the agent and  
17 then the only other person is the defendant if he decides to  
18 testify or not.

19 THE COURT: Which would mean what we would  
06:23:00 20 probably do is break on Thursday -- if this schedule holds  
21 -- always a speculation if it holds. But we'll probably  
22 break on Thursday, do exhibits and motions, and then do jury  
23 instructions and then not argue -- we can talk about it.

24 I really hate to begin deliberation on Friday because  
06:23:20 25 then jurors are like, you know, they don't want to come back

1 on Monday. We'll think about it. But that gives me an  
2 idea.

3 (The following proceedings were had in the hearing of  
4 the Jury:)

06:23:34 5 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen,  
6 we're going to take about 20 minutes. I have another  
7 proceeding I have to deal with here. It shouldn't take  
8 terribly long, but we're going to need at least 20 minutes  
9 because of my conflict. Nothing to do with this case or the  
06:23:47 10 attorneys, but because I have another case that I have to  
11 deal with.

12 So, again, my responsibility. So we'll try to be back  
13 in 20 minutes. And then we'll probably go until we  
14 complete -- probably go to 4:00, 4:30, again this afternoon.

06:24:02 15 So if you leave your notepads often your chairs,  
16 remember all the admonitions I've given you. We'll take a  
17 break. Enjoy your afternoon break. We'll see you in about  
18 20 minutes.

19 Thank you very much.

06:24:15 20 (Jury out, 2:30 p.m.)

21 THE COURT: All right, sir. You can step down.  
22 Be back in the courtroom in about 20 minutes.

23 (Recess taken, 2:30 p.m.)

24 (Jury in, 3:00 p.m.)

06:55:12 25 THE COURT: Counsel, you may proceed.

1 MR. BENNETT: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 BY MR. BENNETT:

3 Q. We had left off on Government's Exhibit 29, page 2.

4 And again, who is this a communication with? What's  
06:55:41 5 the user name?

6 A. This is a Wickr communication with a user name  
7 hereafter.

8 Q. And we previously talked about some manuals. About  
9 middle way down there's a reference to a guide.

06:55:53 10 Can you say what that is?

11 A. It references A Mujahid Guide, 2015.

12 Q. Is that a guide you had pulled up or you're familiar  
13 with in any way?

14 A. I remember at that time pulling up a number of  
06:56:11 15 similarly titled ones that all centered around the same  
16 themes, described earlier.

17 Q. And then can we bring up Government's Exhibit 29-3?  
18 Just pull up the full text.

19 At the top, what is this individual suggesting you do?

06:56:32 20 A. He says to unplug yourself from the grid. That makes  
21 your moves predictable.

22 Q. And what is your response to that?

23 A. I tell him that "I'm not sure how to do that. I work  
24 and need the money to live for Allah alone, would be  
06:56:50 25 tremendous, but I feel I would starve. I'm very jealous of

1 you if you can."

2 Q. And so for you, getting off the grid meant what?

3 A. Living some sort of self-sufficient lifestyle, not  
4 relying on, you know, Wal-Mart's and Chipotle's and things  
06:57:19 5 like that.

6 Q. And what's the next discussion he's providing you  
7 with?

8 A. And like everybody, the body has to have a brain  
9 before it can function, "Bro" and says here "Need to develop  
06:57:33 10 the brain before the limbs can make you move. Dig."

11 Q. And what's he say after that?

12 A. "Brother, do you know about the ghenemah, the ruling  
13 on this?"

14 Q. Do you know what that ghenemah is?

06:57:47 15 A. I do not.

16 Q. And just for the record, that is G-H-E-N-E-M-A-H.

17 And you, in fact, tell him you don't know what that  
18 means?

19 A. Correct.

06:57:57 20 Q. Can we go to page 4, so 29-4?

21 And it's in the middle there.

22 And what advice are you getting from this individual?

23 A. He tells me to not use Islamic terms without splitting  
24 them.

06:58:20 25 Q. Do you understand why?



1 A. I understand that a number -- that people might be  
2 concerned about software that tracks certain terminologies.  
3 And that by using, you know, parsing them into just little  
4 bits and pieces, that you might be able to circumvent that  
06:58:46 5 technology.

6 Q. And what does he ask you next?

7 A. He asks me how long I've been a Muslim.

8 Q. And what do you tell him?

9 A. I told him that I took the shahhadah out of high  
06:59:00 10 school, but I've been a revert for almost two years.

11 Q. And can we go to 29-5?

12 And just bring up all the text.

13 And his second line down, what are you being asked?

14 A. He is asking me if I'm under or over the age of 30.

06:59:22 15 Q. Okay. And what are you responding?

16 A. My first response is to the small group, in which I  
17 say I don't know what he means. And my second response is  
18 that I'll turn 25 in August.

19 Q. And then two lines down from there, what is he saying  
06:59:41 20 to you?

21 A. "Brother, you know this is a hard road to travel. But  
22 big rewards."

23 Q. And do you know what the small M and the capital A  
24 means?

06:59:54 25 A. I interpreted it as an abbreviation of masha 'Allah,

1 which is an Arabic phrase for thanks to Allah.

2 Q. Do you happen to know how to spell that?

3 A. There are different variations. It's M-A-S-H-A,  
4 apostrophe, capital A, little L-A-L-H.

07:00:20 5 Q. And what is your response to that?

6 A. I told him that I know I've only been starting to  
7 think about -- think of anything in the past year. I need  
8 to trust more in Allah.

9 Q. And what do you mean by that when you're saying that?

07:00:36 10 A. When I say I know I've only been starting to think of  
11 anything, it's -- I said that to convey to him that it's  
12 only been within the past year that I've really started to  
13 want to do more serious things, you know, in support of my  
14 jihad.

07:00:59 15 Q. Can we bring up Government's Exhibit 30?

16 Just blow up the whole text.

17 What is happening here in the first part of this  
18 communication?

19 A. In the first part, he's trying to get my attention. I  
07:01:20 20 remember they were all sort of in rapid fire succession.

21 Q. So you knew it was from the user hereafter again. And  
22 at the last line there on the top, what's he asking you?

23 A. "The brother I was talking about before on Chat Secure  
24 and all."

07:01:39 25 Q. And then what do you respond?

1 A. "Hey, brother, we spoke on Surespot last night."

2 Q. And what's his response to that?

3 A. He says "Yes, greetings."

4 Q. And so that Surespot that we talked about, you  
07:01:59 5 testified earlier, was that Willaya Texas?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And can we go to page 4? So Government Exhibit 3,  
8 page 4 -- 30, page 4. And just pull up all the text.

9 You, about the middle there, are saying "So how did we  
07:02:35 10 learn more about each other."

11 Why are you asking him that? Why are you bringing  
12 that up?

13 A. Generally at this part of the conversations that I've  
14 had previously, I would always try to continue to develop a  
07:02:50 15 rapport, but also learn more about the individual and  
16 potentially set up some type of, you know, face-to-face  
17 meet.

18 Q. And what do you say after that?

19 A. Are you asking about the "So how do we learn more  
07:03:12 20 about each other? You seem very security conscious"?

21 Q. Yeah. Why did you say, "You seem very security  
22 conscious"?

23 A. Just because he has sent me to different programs. He  
24 has referenced what he calls OTR encryption. He's spoken  
07:03:28 25 about splitting the Islamic terms to potentially avoid, you

1 know, software tracking.

2 To me that is security conscious.

3 Q. And what is his response to that?

4 A. "That we can meet, but it has to be a secure location.

07:03:45 5 We have to cover our faces and make sure that we're not  
6 followed."

7 Q. And can we go to Exhibit 30, page 5?

8 You're asking about a secure location. And what's he  
9 saying after that?

07:04:03 10 A. So I asked him about a secure location. And he tells  
11 me that I should perform counter-surveillance ops first.

12 Q. And does he go on to provide examples of that?

13 A. He gives me an example of setting traps for them by  
14 pretending something they want to know about us is there.

07:04:24 15 If they show up or things look surveillance, then you know  
16 you're being followed. Pretend to have something stashed  
17 somewhere or meet a VIP.

18 Q. Do you know what VIP means?

19 A. I'm guessing a very important person.

07:04:44 20 Q. So can we go to page 6?

21 And is this a continuation of information being  
22 provided to you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you say to him at this point, "What is your  
07:05:02 25 profession"?

1 A. That I'm a teacher.

2 Q. Were you, in fact, a teacher at this time?

3 A. Unfortunately, I was, yes.

4 Q. And then what else is he telling you about security?

07:05:14 5 A. He tells me not to give him any details about my life  
6 or his -- never give me the real name or any details of your  
7 personal life or your home.

8 Q. What's he say, "Instead of giving your town, you  
9 should provide"?

07:05:35 10 A. The next major city over from me.

11 Q. And can we go to page 7 of Exhibit 30.

12 So you have that continuation. And to the middle on  
13 the right you say, "So what do we do next?"

14 What are you working towards at this point?

07:06:00 15 A. At this point, I'm trying to get the user to a point  
16 where he would feel comfortable having a face-to-face  
17 meeting.

18 Q. And what does he respond? Is he willing to have the  
19 meeting?

07:06:14 20 A. He states that he moves forward by meeting.

21 Q. And then what does he say after that?

22 A. That he will teach me things to teach others.

23 Q. And can we go -- or you can just read, what's the  
24 bottom statement that's there?

07:06:36 25 A. The very last line?

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. "I stick my neck out for the Deen, and it's all risky.  
3 Nothing is low risk my dear brother."

4 Q. And do you know what Deen, it's capital D-E, and then  
07:06:49 5 a space and a small E-N?

6 A. It refers to the single word Deen, D-E-E-N, and it's  
7 basically a large body of Islamic thought.

8 Q. So can we go to 30-8?

9 And just take the lower half.

07:07:07 10 And in the upper right-hand corner, what are you  
11 telling him?

12 A. That I live in Colorado.

13 Q. And then where is he telling you he lives?

14 A. "I'm in TX, Texas."

07:07:20 15 Q. And are you -- you're talking about traveling. What  
16 is your response to your ability to travel?

17 A. I tell him that I work and that I don't earn much  
18 money. Would depend on how far if I could travel or not.

19 Q. And what is his response?

07:07:44 20 A. He tells me that he will pay my gas and travel  
21 expenses.

22 Q. Can we go to 30-9?

23 Can we pull up all the text?

24 So that's -- at the top is a continuation of that  
07:07:57 25 cover of the cost.

1           What's the next line that he's saying to you?

2           A.     "Tell me brother how far are you committed to this  
3           future from one out of ten."

4           Q.     And then in the middle, what is your response to that?

07:08:11 5           A.     I tell him that "I'm committed to the flag of Allah  
6           above all and with all my heart."

7           Q.     And what is his response to that?

8           A.     He says, "You mentioned being a teacher, but is this a  
9           curiosity matter, or are you 100 percent?"

07:08:36 10          Q.     And at the bottom, what is your response to your 100  
11          percent?

12          A.     I tell him, "I hate being a teacher, seeing the Kuffar  
13          parents every day. The apologists looks at the ma jihad.  
14          I'm ready to look for none but Allah, but I'm not about to  
07:08:55 15          commit something foolish or doom to failure.

16                "So I agree we must be careful but doesn't mistake my  
17          caution for hesitation. Smiley face."

18          Q.     And then can we go to page 10 of Exhibit 30? It's a  
19          continuation of this.

07:09:14 20          So what is his response?

21                You should understand what about him?

22          A.     He says that I "Should understand by now that he's not  
23          a foolish type and whatever deed I do with the  
24          intention -- whatever deed he does with the intention to  
07:09:29 25          please Allah is always rewarded."

1 Q. Okay. And what do you respond there?

2 A. Al-Hambullah.

3 Q. And for the record that's A-L-H-A-M-B-U-L-L-A-H.

4 And what's his response to that?

07:09:48 5 A. "To remember the trolls, brother. Don't use those  
6 words here," and then he asks if I own any weapons.

7 Q. And what is your response to that?

8 A. I tell him that I do not, but I have access. I have  
9 read manuals as well.

07:10:03 10 Q. Can we go to Exhibit 30, page 11? And blow up the  
11 bottom half.

12 Start with "Okay."

13 Does he make a recommendation as to a weapon that you  
14 should get?

07:10:18 15 A. Yes. He informs me to get a riffle, preferably an  
16 AK-47.

17 Q. Can we go back to page 10 of Exhibit 30.

18 Just the bottom part.

19 What else is he asking you with regards to any other  
07:10:45 20 brothers or sisters?

21 A. He asks me if I know any brothers or sisters that he  
22 can meet while he's out my way.

23 Q. So at this point, you're planning on or moving forward  
24 with a plan to meet.

07:11:01 25 A. Correct.



1 Q. Can we go to page 12 of Exhibit 30?

2 And you can blow up all the text?

3 With regard to others to meet, what are you being told  
4 to share with that individual?

07:11:21 5 A. He's telling me to inform another brother that I had  
6 mentioned that he has a small effort to organize.

7 Q. Okay. And what else?

8 A. That his "My ageed is from the Koran and the Sunnah.  
9 Of course, I call my dear brother. And Allah says for us to  
07:11:50 10 take shurah. Our plan is only to meet. No other plan."

11 Q. And did you asked him whether or not he was consulting  
12 with others?

13 A. I don't recall, if it was before or after this point  
14 in the conversation.

07:12:09 15 Q. And then at the bottom, what is he suggesting you  
16 should do?

17 A. He instructs me to keep my learning, to ready myself  
18 mentally and physically and to not draw attention to myself  
19 and to keep under the radar.

07:12:28 20 Q. And if we go to page 13, so 30-13.

21 And there's kind of a repeat that's up there.

22 What else does he tell you after don't draw any  
23 attention to your he have?

24 A. "Become fearless, persistent and passionate because  
07:12:50 25 only the passionate will enter the highest levels of

1 jannah."

2 Q. And what is jannah, which is J-A-N-N-A-H?

3 A. It's the equivalent of heaven in the Islamic belief.

4 Q. And at the very bottom, what does he say about  
07:13:08 5 himself?

6 A. That he is the most serious brother I will ever meet.

7 Q. And if we go to page 14, 30-14.

8 Just the top to lines.

9 That's good.

07:13:21 10 And what is he referencing there?

11 A. He asks me if I remember the brain analogy that he  
12 gave me yesterday, referring to the brain cannot grow before  
13 the limbs.

14 Q. Can we go to Government's Exhibit 31? And pull up all  
07:13:40 15 of the text.

16 And take a moment and kind of look at this. And then  
17 I just want to kind of ask you in general what's going on  
18 here.

19 What is he, at the very top, discussing with you?

07:14:07 20 A. He is discussing putting me into -- in contact with  
21 another brother.

22 Q. And above that you had said you're always open to  
23 meeting righteous brothers?

24 A. Yes, prior to that, I said I'm always open to meeting  
07:14:27 25 righteous brothers of the haqq.

1 Q. And what are you asking with regard to information on  
2 this individual?

3 A. I'm asking for his user name, how they met, and how  
4 trustworthy he is.

07:14:38 5 Q. And then what does he tell you with regard to that  
6 request?

7 A. He tells me to stand by for his user name. I  
8 also -- he tells me that I should vet him with the same  
9 rules that I learned with him, and that he thinks he is  
07:14:56 10 trustworthy enough to introduce him to me.

11 Q. And then with regard to the rules, are there  
12 some -- something further, some bullet points he's providing  
13 you there?

14 A. He informs me that I'm not to give any personal  
07:15:10 15 details, that I should not agree to meet unless through him,  
16 to not tell him my state unless through him, that I assume  
17 all the risks, and to run no details about identity or  
18 organization -- and in all capital letters, "Except through  
19 me, okay, my dear brother."

07:15:33 20 Q. And then why is that?

21 A. He says "This is to keep everyone anonymous and safe."  
22 And it's because he assumes all the risks.

23 Q. And did you, in fact, at some point interact with  
24 another brother online?

07:15:48 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And can we go to page 2, Exhibit 31, page 2?

2 And in the middle there -- we only have to come  
3 halfway down.

4 Up one more.

07:16:03 5 Okay.

6 So looking at the very top, who is contacting whom?

7 A. The user name, hereafter, is contacting me and says  
8 that he informed the other person that I would contact him  
9 and that I was a good brother.

07:16:24 10 Q. Okay. So we go to page 3 of Exhibit 31.

11 And about midway down, does he suggest to you the  
12 program to be used in the user name?

13 A. Yes. He tells me to use Wickr to contact this person.

14 Q. And what is the name?

07:16:47 15 A. His states his name is Al Furaan.

16 Q. Which is small A-L, capital F-U-R-A-A-N.

17 And then there's a reference to you -- or a response  
18 from you.

19 Has that?

07:17:06 20 A. When I tried to enter that name into the program, it  
21 came back as an invalid user name. And I told him as such.

22 Q. Okay. And at the bottom are you given a different  
23 user name?

24 A. Yes. He tells me the correct spelling is Al Furqaan,  
07:17:21 25 big A, little L, big F-U-R-Q-A-A-N.

1 Q. And then what are you supposed to do once you've  
2 interacted with this individual?

3 A. I'm supposed to debrief him after our conversation.

4 Q. Can we go to Government's Exhibit 32?

07:17:43 5 Now, can you identify this document?

6 A. This is the screen shot of a Wickr communication that  
7 I'm having with the user name Nowhaq.

8 Q. And what is the second line down from Nowhaq?

9 A. It's the first statement from the user which says  
07:18:14 10 "Good, little M big A."

11 Q. And what's the next line?

12 A. This is my new handle.

13 Q. Was this the same individual that you were  
14 communicating with, this hereafter?

07:18:30 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And what does he say next about the other brothers:

17 A. "The other brothers have new handles, too, masha  
18 'Allal'h."

19 Q. And then going to page 2 of this document.

07:18:50 20 What are you talking about at the top and what's his  
21 response?

22 A. I tell him inshallah is just a means to an end. I  
23 don't recall the context of that statement. He tells me  
24 then, "It's a trap. "I've done many Taleems and khutbah on  
07:19:23 25 the subject. May Allah make it easy, brother."

1 Q. And Taleems, T-A-L-E-E-M-S. Do you know what that  
2 means?

3 A. I don't recall, no.

4 Q. Okay. Your next statement down, "What's new?" What  
07:19:42 5 are you also referencing there?

6 A. I asked him if he's been in touch with the other  
7 brother.

8 Q. And was this the user name that we saw previously?

9 A. Correct.

07:19:51 10 Q. And had you had interaction with that individual?

11 A. I believe I had, yes.

12 Q. So what's his response to you on that?

13 A. "Yes. I have a few more brothers for you to meet, but  
14 I'm waiting for things to check out."

07:20:08 15 Q. Okay. And what is your response to that?

16 A. I say, "Okay. I'm here whenever."

17 Q. Did you, in essence, end up having a conversation with  
18 other proposed brothers?

19 A. I recall having the one conversation that we  
07:20:28 20 discussed. I believe that there were tangential  
21 conversations to this, but I can't recall with specificity.

22 Q. Okay. Can we go to Government's Exhibit 33?

23 And these seem to be just some pleasantries between  
24 you and Nowhaq. What are you guys talking about?

07:21:02 25 A. We are talking about the weather.

1 Q. And if we look at page 2 of Exhibit 33?

2 What are you suggesting there about higher elevations?

3 A. I'm telling him that it gets cold at the higher  
4 elevations. This is in reference to Colorado, and that I  
07:21:26 5 like to hike, but that the weather fluctuates pretty  
6 significantly.

7 Q. So after this communication, do you have any other  
8 interaction from mid-April on with this user or any other  
9 user name related to this user?

07:21:46 10 A. I could have, but I don't recall at this time.

11 Q. Did you ever meet either this individual under either  
12 user name that you guys were setting up and meeting? Did  
13 you actually sit down and meet with him?

14 A. Physically meet with him?

07:22:08 15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you attempt at any point to reach back out to him?

18 A. I might have at a later time. But I can't say for  
19 certain.

07:22:21 20 Q. So does it, in essence, just go dark?

21 A. No. Sometimes just the natural ebb and flow of  
22 conversations, you know, we see it in our every day lives.  
23 Sometimes you talk with somebody very frequently and then  
24 you might not speak to them for a bit.

07:22:43 25 I generally like to reach out to a person again if I

1 haven't heard from them in awhile. So it would not be  
2 unusual if I did. But without seeing something in front of  
3 me, I wouldn't be able to recall.

07:23:04 4 Q. But not enough for you to have given screen shots  
5 further?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Nothing else was provided. Okay.

8 We had talked earlier about the payment that you have  
9 received. Back when you were doing this in 2015, were you  
07:23:15 10 getting paid on a regular basis?

11 A. Not at that time, no.

12 Q. At this point, do you get paid like a monthly amount?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Does it have anything to do or relate to what we just  
07:23:28 15 went over, the information we have here?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Thank you.

18 MR. BENNETT: No further questions, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

07:23:36 20 Counsel, you may cross-examine.

21 MR. HARTMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION OF MATTHEW PALMER

23 BY MR. HARTMAN:

24 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Palmer.

07:23:49 25 A. Hi.



1 Q. You have no idea who you were communicating with,  
2 correct?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You put your Wickr handle on your Twitter feed?

07:24:05 5 A. First I put my Surespot ID. And then under his  
6 direction, I put the Wickr identity, yes.

7 Q. But when you put your Surespot on your Twitter feed,  
8 anybody who is on Twitter can see that, correct?

9 A. Correct.

07:24:17 10 Q. So anybody could have reached out to you, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay.

13 And this person that you were talking to first on  
14 Surespot told you that he didn't trust Surespot?

07:24:45 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. He also told you that he's all about tying the camel.  
17 Now, you said that's from a very famous proverb?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. It's very well known, right?

07:25:00 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Yes.

22 Now, after you were communicating with this person on  
23 Wickr with the screen name hereafter, there was an analogy  
24 about the brain and the body, correct?

07:25:27 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And are you aware that that's from a famous lecture by  
2 Anwar Al-Awlaki?

3 A. I'm not aware of that particular lecture, no.

4 Q. Okay. When you told him that you lived in Colorado,  
07:25:47 5 were you living in Colorado at the time?

6 A. At that time I was, yes.

7 Q. And that's where you were a teacher?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. When this person, hereafter, when he or she told you  
07:26:03 10 to get a rifle, preferably an AK-47, that wasn't followed  
11 that was followed immediately by "Just for protection,  
12 nothing else," correct?

13 A. I don't have the text in front of me, but I believe  
14 that, yes.

07:26:18 15 Q. Would you like to see it to make sure, or --

16 A. I remember it being in the --

17 Q. Okay. Okay. That's fine.

18 When you contacted this Al Furqaan, did you have a  
19 conversation back and forth online?

07:26:39 20 A. With Mr. Furqaan, I believe we had a brief  
21 conversation.

22 Q. Did you take screen shots of that?

23 A. As I recall, I did initially, yes.

24 Q. Do you know where they are?

07:26:51 25 A. At this very moment, no, I don't know where they are.

1 Q. Now, you've been paid almost a quarter of a million  
2 dollars by the FBI for your work, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. That's a lot of money, would you agree?

07:27:13 5 You have to answer out loud for the court reporter.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And it's your testimony that that has nothing to do  
8 with whether you're productive or not?

9 A. No. You know, I can even recall a time where there  
07:27:30 10 was an extended period of time where, you know, I  
11 wasn't -- you know, nobody was coming to me with, you know,  
12 plots and, you know, I was still getting paid.

13 So, you know, I never got the impression that it was  
14 conditioned upon anything.

07:27:50 15 Q. Since you've been getting paid regularly, has it  
16 always been \$6,500 a month?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Has there been any talk about that going up or down?

19 A. No, unfortunately not.

07:28:03 20 Q. Now, what you're doing here is essentially creating an  
21 online persona in hopes that people reach out to you; is  
22 that correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Now, would you agree with me it's possible that the  
07:28:21 25 person you were speaking with was also creating an online

1       persona?

2       A.       I'm sorry. Can you rephrase that?

3       Q.       Would you agree with me that it's possible that the  
4       person you were communicating with on these screen shots was  
07:28:35 5       also creating an online persona?

6       A.       I'm sorry, I'm still not understanding the question.

7       Q.       Well, isn't it possible that the person you were  
8       communicating with, whether it would be Nowhaq or hereafter,  
9       was him or herself creating an online persona to achieve a  
07:28:58 10       certain end, even if we don't know what that end was?

11       A.       Are you asking if that person were creating an  
12       entirely fictitious profile completely disconnected from  
13       themselves.

14       Q.       Isn't that possible?

07:29:16 15       A.       Sure.

16                       MR. HARTMAN: I don't have any further questions,  
17       Your Honor.

18                       THE COURT: Thank you. Any redirect of the  
19       witness.

07:29:23 20                       REDIRECT EXAMINATION OF MATTHEW PALMER

21       BY MR. BENNETT:

22       Q.       Just to clarify, the amount of money you've made has  
23       been since 2011, correct?

24       A.       Correct.

07:29:30 25       Q.       So it's been over a seven-year period?

1 A. Yes.

2 MR. BENNETT: Nothing further, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: All right. You can step down.

4 You're excused.

07:29:38 5 Counsel, why don't you approach at sidebar, please?

6 (Discussion at sidebar as follows:)

7 THE COURT: Who is your next witness?

8 MR. SHEPHERD: Our next witness is Amy Vaughan of  
9 the FBI who is going to talk a social media Your Honor and  
07:30:01 10 your analysis of IP addresses.

11 THE COURT: How long did you anticipate her  
12 testimony to be.

13 MR. SHEPHERD: I think our direct would be as  
14 least an hour, Your Honor.

07:30:13 15 THE COURT: Well, does either side have a  
16 preference. I have mixed feelings. I suppose we can  
17 adjourn and start fresh in the morning with that witness's  
18 testimony. Is it technical?

19 MR. SHEPHERD: It is, Your Honor. There's going  
07:30:25 20 to be a technical side to it.

21 THE COURT: That's probably better than start  
22 doing it at the end of the day when the jurors might be a  
23 bit tired. So we'll start testimony morning with that  
24 witness and then we'll discuss the balancing after we  
07:30:39 25 dismiss the jury.

1 MR. SHEPHERD: We anticipate that will be our  
2 last witness, but tonight we will review to make sure.

3 THE COURT: All right.

4 MR. DOUGHTEN: And as you said, Your Honor, we  
07:30:50 5 expect an agent that will be on a half hour, and then it  
6 will be determined whether the defendant will testify or  
7 not.

8 If he does testify, we'll have him on for probably an  
9 hour or so and their cross will be extended. But at this  
07:31:07 10 point, I don't know what he's going to do.

11 THE COURT: Okay. We'll talk schedule here in a  
12 moment. Let's get the jury out. Then we'll talk.

13 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes, Your Honor.

14 MR. DOUGHTEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

07:31:16 15 (The following proceedings were had in the hearing of  
16 the Jury:)

17 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,  
18 this is how we're going to proceed.

19 The government has a witness to present that will be  
07:31:32 20 somewhat technical in nature. The testimony will be  
21 technical in nature. And it may take more than an hour. So  
22 I think rather than start that testimony this afternoon,  
23 we'll start fresh in the morning. It will be -- all  
24 testimony is important. All testimony requires your  
07:31:48 25 attention. Bluntly, some testimony is easier to follow than

1 others and this testimony might be the type of testimony  
2 that's going to require closer attention.

3 So we'll adjourn for the day. We'll start tomorrow  
4 morning at 9:00 with that witness's testimony. I'll have a  
07:32:03 5 better idea tomorrow about scheduling, about how long the  
6 trial is going to last.

7 Candidly, the government's case has moved a little  
8 more quickly than any of us anticipated so our scheduling,  
9 we're moving along.

07:32:17 10 So I won't mislead you. We'll probably be here on  
11 Monday. But we're moving along.

12 So we are not going to approach the three weeks that  
13 we anticipated. Again, subject to deliberations. I can't  
14 tell you how long that will take.

07:32:32 15 But we'll give you more information tomorrow about the  
16 schedule. And keep that in mind.

17 So with that, please, I have to repeat them. Remember  
18 all the admonitions I've given you about not discussing the  
19 case among yourselves, forming or expressing any opinions on  
07:32:47 20 the matter, doing any type of research, reading any  
21 articles, talking to family, stay off the Internet, avoid  
22 any media accounts there might be of this case. Avoid any  
23 issues -- or excuse me, any type of materials that might  
24 raise issues similar to what we are addressing here.

07:33:07 25 Your verdict has to be based only on the evidence you

1 see and hear in the courtroom. There's plenty of that.  
2 You're going to have a lot of testimony and other evidence  
3 to consider in any event.

4 So let's not let anything extraneous in any way  
07:33:23 5 adversely affect your decision making.

6 Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Have a  
7 safe drive home.

8 All rise.

9 (Jury out, 3:40 p.m.)

07:33:55 10 THE COURT: All right. Please be seated, ladies  
11 and gentlemen. Let's just have a brief discussion of  
12 scheduling. And I will throw out some of my preliminary  
13 thoughts.

14 We've had some sidebar discussions, Mr. Hendricks,  
07:34:07 15 about scheduling and about how this case might proceed and  
16 about what witnesses may be called.

17 It appears the government has one other witness,  
18 technical in nature. It may take us a couple hours tomorrow  
19 morning to get that witness's testimony in. Then we'll  
07:34:23 20 begin with whatever testimony, evidence, the defendant  
21 wishes to present.

22 So that will take us through Wednesday.

23 Depending upon how long the defendant's case proceeds,  
24 I will -- my thought process is that we'll either use  
07:34:41 25 Thursday or Friday for admission of exhibits and what have



1 you. Possibly do instructions of law and closing arguments  
2 on Friday. I do not want the jury to begin deliberating  
3 until Monday. I don't want this jury to get this case on a  
4 Friday and then feel like they need to perhaps make a hasty  
07:35:05 5 decision. There's going to be what -- we have 13 witnesses  
6 so far? There's going to be thousands of pages of exhibits.  
7 I want them to start fresh on a Monday morning, to be candid  
8 with you.

9 So bearing that in mind, my clerk's going to provide  
07:35:18 10 both sides with just a rough draft, a preliminary draft of  
11 the jury instructions so we can get that on the table and  
12 you can all start looking at those. At least I know, among  
13 all the other work that you have, at least you'll have a  
14 draft to start with.

07:35:31 15 I think, based on my recollection and based on  
16 discussions earlier, there's going to be a few issues, I  
17 think, regarding instructions. And so it won't be  
18 substantial argument.

19 So we'll proceed in that fashion.

07:35:44 20 Mr. Hendricks, you don't have to respond. You need to  
21 have a very thorough discussion with your attorneys about  
22 whether you wish to testify or do not wish to testify. It's  
23 a decision entirely between you and your attorneys. I will  
24 inquire at the appropriate time to ask what your decision  
07:35:57 25 is. But I would encourage you to have that discussion.

1 That will help your attorneys plan and decide what evidence  
2 they want to present in your case in defense of this case.  
3 So they need to know and they need some information from you  
4 in helping them to make that decision.

07:36:14 5 It's entirely up to you. I'm not trying in any way to  
6 suggest whether you should or shouldn't testify. That's a  
7 decision only you can make. You have a right to remain  
8 silent, and if you choose not to testify, that jury will be  
9 instructed they're not to consider it for any purpose. And  
07:36:28 10 so I just want to be sure that, you know, you have that kind  
11 of discussion sooner rather than later.

12 You'll have some time, but you need to start giving  
13 that some decision -- or giving that some thought.

14 Are there any other issues either side would like me  
07:36:44 15 to address before we adjourn for the day?

16 Counsel for the government?

17 MR. SHEPHERD: No, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Counsel for the defendant.

19 MR. DOUGHTEN: No, Your Honor.

07:36:51 20 THE COURT: If you arrive at a conclusion  
21 tomorrow, counsel for the government, that there's another  
22 witness up need to call, let us know or let the clerk know  
23 tomorrow morning, so we can have a rough idea what the  
24 schedule's going to be during the day. You're not  
07:37:04 25 foreclosed. You haven't rested yet, so you have obviously

1 the option to present someone else if you so chose to do so.

2 All right. Thank you very much for your courtesy and  
3 your patience. We'll see you tomorrow morning at 9:00.

4 MR. SHEPHERD: Thank you, Your Honor.

07:37:19 5 MR. DOUGHTEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Thanks, all of you as well.

7 (Proceedings concluded at 3:45 p.m.)

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6 BY MR. BENNETT

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that the forgoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

S/Caroline Mahnke 3/13/18

Caroline Mahnke, RMR, CRR Date

S/Lori A. Callahan 3/13/18

Lori A. Callahan, RMR, CRR Date